

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
 يوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأي

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)** — Three Palestinians were killed and 18 injured when what was described as a family feud in the Israeli-occupied West Bank erupted in violence this week, Palestinian said Friday. Clashes ended only after Palestinians from nearby villages moved in to enforce a truce on the northern West Bank village of Arabushah near Jenin, residents said. The dispute centered on money and property, they said. It began between two men from the same village clan, the Al Samdi and Al Haj Hassan families, but quickly escalated into one of the 600 blood feuds. Arguments between young men became increasingly violent, they said, and Fawwaz Al Samdi, 24, and his brother Abdul Rahman, 22, were killed, allegedly by members of the Al Haj Hassan family. Fayez Al Haj Hassan, 64, the village head and patriarch of the opposing clan, was also killed in the fighting, they said. Witnesses said Palestinians, many known activists of the Palestinian uprising, were now patrolling Arabushah, checking identity cards of people wishing to enter the village, to prevent further violence.

**Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence**

# De Klerk legalises ANC, promises early release for Mandela

# King lauds press

## King denounces killing of Saudi diplomats in Bangkok

They arrived at the gate of the house less than one metre away.

Police said at least two gunmen were involved. They noted witnesses as saying one of the gunmen appeared to be of Middle Eastern appearance.

A Saudi Foreign Ministry statement Thursday said: "While expressing regret at this painful incident, the Saudi government... calls on the Thai government to shoulder full responsibilities as soon as possible, uncover the criminal perpetrators and bring them to justice."

## House votes on budget today

ked the government to in-

ude the budgets of those departments which are financially and administratively independent. They argued that the status of these entities are unconstitutional."

A proposal by the Financial Committee which observers say will not be approved by the

Several senior PSD officials attended last Saturday's session and were seen lobbying deputies against the proposal,

much, according to informed sources, will deprive the department of "much needed" \$1 million."

Last week's budget discussions were postponed till this Saturday to accommodate two days of high-level Syrian-Jordanian talks in Amman on Friday and Tuesday. These talks came under the umbrella of the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee.

# resident

Some officials went as far as claiming that the association building, which was sealed by police in June 1987, was used

(Continued on page 4)

## ten strike

ises and better financial con-  
itions.

The signatories asked that employees be represented in the Bank's management committee. The employees own 14 per cent of the shares.

The employees also called for their participation in efforts to bring to account those involved with corruption at the bank. "The matter is

In addition, they demanded that the problems facing the

(Continued on page 4)

## sees need in strategy

While many exporting countries were striving to get a greater share of the export quotas in the U.S., many Arab countries and Jordan in particular had been nowhere near meeting up their quotas. The possibilities for Jordanian exports to the United

(Continued on page 4)

## Abu Odeh: Arab summit should study Soviet influx

## Hospital staff stage food strike

**ARMIAN (J.T.)**—Staff members of Al Baskin Hospital Friday went on a hunger strike protesting the hospital's administration's failure to improve the quantity and the quality of food served to them.

Four people are currently served a quantity of food usually consumed by one person, according to hospital sources. They added that hospital staff had lodged letters of complaint.

A number of nurses working at the hospital said that the reduction in the size of meals served to them was adopted in accordance with the new directives of the National Medical Institution.

## League slams superpowers over Soviet Jewish exodus

# superpowers

## Jewish exodus

Chadli Klibi, was holding a two-hour meeting at the same time with Soviet envoy Gennady Tarasov, who has been in Tunis since Wednesday to explain Moscow's position on Jewish emigration to the Arab League and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

PLO officials said he had given no ground on a PLO request that Moscow slow down the Jewish exodus by reintroducing stopovers in Europe and reviewing the process if any of the emigrants settle in the occupied territories.

The Arab League said in a statement that Klibi told Tarasov that the increase in Jewish emigration would lead to what he called "a historic disaster no less serious than the disaster of 1948" when Israel was created.

## PLO leaders suprised by 'concession' report

# Is surprised ion' report

## Aoun's forces attack Geagea's base

# Geagea's

remove Aoun from power.

"It is a must that spiritual and political leaderships take over Aoun's power to rescue the society," a commentary said.

It could not be determined whether the militia was seeking President Elias Hrawi's intervention in the current power struggle in the Christian enclave.

Radio stations quoted the Syrian-backed Hrawi as telling a French radio station that he was prepared to "intervene militarily" if such a move was requested by Geagea.

"Stop this mass suicide," Maronite Christian Church leader Nasrallah Butros Steir pleaded.

But a ceasefire he sought to arrange at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) went unheeded.

At least 113 people have been killed and 480 wounded since fighting flared Wednesday after Aoun ordered the militia to lay down its arms.

"We are ready to intervene..."

**militarily," Hrawi told French radio from west Beirut. "I am**

waiting for an appeal from Gageas or from his people. If it's not tonight, it will be tomorrow."

Eravi has been trying since his election last November to break Aoun's grip on the Christian enclave.

As repeated salvos crashed in the sector, including the Ramlet Al Baida district where Hrawi has taken a residence, the president left for an unknown location, aides said.

An aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the president "changed his office for his own safety." He refused to elaborate.

The Voice of Nation radio interrupted regular programming to accuse Aoun of shelling west Beirut.

"The general has gone mad. He's shelling west Beirut. Citizens are urged to head to underground bomb shelters," the announcer said.

## U.S.-Arab trade official sees need for basic changes in Jordan strategy

# sees need in strategy



## Sudan turns back relief plane for besieged town

NAIROBI, Kenya (Agencies) — Sudanese air traffic controllers denied landing permission Thursday to an aircraft ferrying emergency food to the beleaguered southern Sudan town of Juba.

"It seems the civil aviation people in Khartoum didn't get details of the aircraft," said Bob Koopp of the Lutheran Federation. "We got permission and everything."

Koopp said the Hercules C-130 returned to Kenya's capital, Nairobi, in the morning. It had a cargo of 15 tonnes of corn donated by the Italian government.

"We are at them (Sudanese) and hope to fly tomorrow," said Koopp, whose Nairobi office is responsible for the Lutheran's activities in southern Sudan.

While the C-130 was not allowed to land, a Boeing 707 leased by the Lutheran from Sudan Airways was permitted to deliver 30 tonnes of corn to Juba Thursday, Koopp said.

Koopp said his organisation has 2,500 tonnes of Italian-donated corn awaiting delivery to Juba and expects to receive additional food from other donors soon.

The Hercules was leased to increase reliability of food deliveries to Juba's estimated 300,000 residents, who recent evacuees say are prevented by armed soldiers from leaving the town.

Juba, on the west bank of the White Nile River, is the largest town in Equatoria province. It is

ringed with land mines planted by both the government troops and rebel southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The rebels have subjected Juba to sporadic artillery bombardment and have virtually cut all land routes to the town.

Only the Lutherans have delivered non-Sudanese government food supplies to Juba since Khartoum banned relief flights on Nov. 3 after an informal ceasefire with the rebels broke down.

Koopp said the Lutheran's had been unable to satisfactorily rely on Sudan Airways because "they have too much business and few aircraft."

On Wednesday, Koopp asked the rebels and government troops "to please respect and allow the Hercules and its crews free and safe passage" but the rebels remained non-committal.

Meanwhile the SPLA denied Friday reports in Khartoum's government-controlled newspapers that the army had broken their sieges of two southern towns.

"The allegation is an attempt by the Khartoum government to raise the army morale, that had been badly affected by the war in the south," Lam Akol, the num-

ber three commander of the SPLA, told Reuters.

Khartoum's government newspapers said Thursday the army had broken the SPLA's siege of Juba and Yei and life was returning to normal.

The rebels have shelled Juba three times in the past two weeks. Akol said the sieges of the two towns was continuing "with ferocity," and it was only a matter of time before they fell.

He said anyone trying to fly a plane to the city's airport "will do so at his own risk."

Akol said Sudan's military junta last week lifted a ban it had imposed on flights to the South last November "in order to shuttle military supplies into Juba under the guise of relief."

Despite a government assurance that relief agencies could resume flights to both government and rebel-held towns, the civilian aviation authorities in Khartoum have not yet given any clearance for such flights.

Akol said the government was preventing civilians leaving Juba to use them as "a shield against SPLA attacks. This is grossly inhuman and must be roundly condemned."

Refugees told Reuters Wednesday the army was preventing thousands of frightened civilians from fleeing to rebel-held territory outside Juba to escape shellfire, food shortages and the threat of rebel attack.

## Turks in Greek town are still scared — Turkish envoy

ANKARA (R) — Ethnic Turks in a northern Greek town fear to venture from their homes five days after 19 people were injured in clashes with Greeks, Turkey's ambassador to Greece said Friday.

Ambassador Gunduz Aktan was recalled for consultations as relations between the two countries slumped to their lowest since they nearly went to war over Aegean Sea rights in 1987.

"This is the lowest point in our relationship since March 1987. We no longer believe in the goodwill of the Greek government," a senior Turkish Foreign Ministry official said.

Aktan told the semi-official Anatolian News Agency: "The situation in Komotini has not settled fully and Turks there still fear to go out of their homes."

Foreign Ministry sources reported top-level meetings in Ankara to discuss Greece's request for the recall of Turkey's consul-general in Komotini, Kemal Gur.

Turkey has indicated that it could respond to his removal by demanding the recall of Greece's consul-general in Istanbul, Turkey's commercial centre.

Turkey said Monday's clashes in Komotini, near the Turkish frontier, in Monday's clashes, resulted from organised mass violence against the Turkish minority.

"We know the Greeks did not even detain those responsible for the incident, let alone make arrests," Aktan said.

Athens rejected both Turkish charges that brute force was used against ethnic Turks and Ankara's international appeal for protection of the human rights of ethnic Turks in Greece.

An estimated 120,000 Muslim ethnic Turks live in Greece, which described them as Greek Muslims. They are remnants of Ottoman rule which ended in the region in 1913.

Greece said Thursday it would insist on Gur's recall unless he changed the contents of a letter to Komotini authorities referring to ethnic Turks as "fellow countrymen."

"The word we use for 'kinsmen' in Greece proved to have a different meaning in Greek," Aktan said. "I think the Greeks are annoyed with our usage of the word."

Turkey and Greece have been at odds for decades over issues including Cyprus and rights in the Aegean Sea.

## Group threatens to blow up Atatürk Dam

NICOSIA (AP) — A hitherto unknown group calling itself the Kurdish-Arab Front against Turkey threatened Friday to blow up the Atatürk Dam on the Euphrates River "as soon as possible."

The threat, which came in a typewritten statement in English and Arabic mailed to the Associated Press office from Nicosia, came three weeks after Turkey cut off much of the river's flow for one month to fill the dam's reservoir.

The date on the postmark was illegible and it was not clear when the statement was written.

"We must not let Turkey finish an odious project: the Atatürk Dam," the statement said. "We are ready to blow it up. Let's unite our efforts to destroy it as soon as possible."

"Dear Arab brothers, let's unite our efforts and prevent Turkey from tapping the Euphrates on Jan. 13, 1990. Let's address our protests to the OIC, the International Court at the Hague and the United Nations."

The OIC is the Jeddah-based Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

A spokeswoman for the Kurdish Solidarity Committee of the

Cyprus House of Representatives, which hosted two Kurdish activists in Cyprus earlier this week, said she had never heard of the group.

The two, Hassan Akim and Omer Hoja of the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party of Turkey, known as the PKK, had denounced alleged human rights abuses in Turkey and appealed to the United States for assistance.

The U.S. State Department protested their presence in Cyprus, calling the PKK "terrorists." The Cyprus government said it rejected the protest.

## Shamir-Sharon power struggle heats up

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, whose power struggle threatens Middle East peace talks, have stepped up their feud as a showdown draws near.

Adding to the disarray, the two have issued different invitations to a crucial Likud Party central committee meeting Wednesday to set positions on proposed peace talks with Palestinians.

Shamir has staked his political career on the vote while Sharon, the cabinet's leading hawk, hopes the meeting will boost his ambitions to become prime minister.

"Shamir will want a clear vote and then he will be able to do whatever he wants," an official close to the prime minister said.

Unlike Shamir's invitation, the agenda issued by the Sharon camp omits the prime minister's opening address on government

and party policy to the 2,000-member central committee.

Shamir has said he will resign if he does not get the vote of confidence he is seeking on his positions.

He has come under intense pressure from his Labour coalition partners and the United States to talk to Palestinians.

Labour politicians are threatening to bring down the coalition if Sharon succeeds in persuading the central committee to impose tough conditions for dialogue with Palestinians.

Sharon met party allies Thursday to discuss proposals that would wreck compromises hammered out by Egypt and the United States.

Sharon, who has the backing of two other senior Likud ministers, is expected to demand constraints such as barring Palestinians from East Jerusalem or deportees from

participating in talks.

Defying Arab and international opinion, the hawks are also expected to call for increased Jewish settlement in the Palestinian territories.

Shamir, himself a rightwinger, has already been widely condemned for his remarks that a "big Israel" was needed to accommodate Soviet Jewish immigration.

In the countdown to the Wednesday meeting, the Shamir and Sharon camps have begun trading insults. Sharon has accused Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, a Shamir confidante, of having evaded military service.

Sharon, who instigated the army's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, has also hit out at Israel's only Arab friend, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in his attempt to appeal to grassroots Likud opinion. This week he labelled Mubarak a dictator.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

### Iran offers aid to Azerbaijan

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran Thursday said it was ready to send doctors, nurses and medicine to strife-torn Soviet Azerbaijan, Tehran television reported. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said the offer was announced at a meeting between the Soviet ambassador in Tehran, Vladimir Gudev, and an unidentified Foreign Ministry official. The Iranians have condemned Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's use of force to quell an uprising in Azerbaijan, whose people are predominantly Shiite Muslim like most of Iran's 55 million people. Official reports have said 97 people were killed in last month's ethnic riots between Azerbaijanis and Christian Armenians and the subsequent Soviet military crackdown. Thousands of Azerbaijanis fleeing the crackdown have crossed into Iran to join their kin, with whom they also share a common language and culture. Moscow Radio accused Tehran of "political blindness" when a number of Iranian officials condemned Moscow's measures to control the violence.

### Hakim fined for Iran-contra pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — Albert Hakim, who helped set up a network of offshore companies used in the Iran-contra scandal, was placed on two years' probation and fined \$5,000. The sentence came after Hakim agreed to give up his claim on \$7.3 million in the companies' accounts, which came from profits from the sale of arms to Iran. The sentence was on his conviction in November of illegally supplementing the government income of former National Security Council aide Oliver North, another figure in the scandal. Hakim provided North with \$13,800 home security system. Iran-contra, the biggest foreign policy scandal of Ronald Reagan's eight year as president, involved the clandestine sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of some of the profits to rebels fighting the Nicaraguan government when such assistance was banned by law. Hakim, who could have been sentenced to up to a year in jail and a \$100,000 fine on the misdemeanor charge, is the sixth person sentenced in the Iran-contra affair. No one has been sent to jail.

### Aid sought for Tunisia flood victims

GENEVA (AP) — The International Red Cross (ICRC) appealed Thursday for some 2.2 million Swiss francs (\$1.5 million) in emergency aid for Tunisian flood victims. The call for international help aims to provide tents, blankets, clothing and food to 40,000 people hit by last week's flooding in central and southern Tunisia, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said. Twenty-five people were killed and 12 are missing in the disaster, according to a provisional Red Cross toll. Nearly 10,000 families remain homeless and 26,000 dwellings are damaged, a Red Cross statement said.

### Arab papers attack Aoun

NICOSIA (R) — Arab newspapers Friday branded Lebanon's Christian General Michel Aoun a dictator and predicted that battles engulfing Beirut would intensify. "Aoun wants to destroy everyone so he can sit on a throne of skeletons," Bahrain's Al-Khaleej said, adding that recent fighting had shown Aoun wanted a dictatorship. At least 85 people have been killed in east Beirut since Wednesday in fighting between Aoun's army troops and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces. Battles erupted again Friday after a short-lived ceasefire. Oman newspaper said the inter-Christian battles would spark more fighting and "this time it will not only be between militias, but the two factions in the army will provide the fuel in the next round." Lebanon's army is split between forces loyal to Aoun and those supportive President Elias Hrawi's government. Another Omani newspaper, Al-Wakeel, supported calls for an emergency Arab summit to try to bring peace. The Kuwaiti Al-Rai Al-Ahli, in an editorial, said the Lebanese themselves were largely to blame for their plight. "The Lebanese contributed freely in the destruction of their country and some of them still, consciously or unconsciously, offer this free service for personal gain."

## Khartoum banker shops for bread in Beirut

KHARTOUM — When Ismat Uzzi wants to buy a few groceries, he takes a plane to Beirut.

"Even during the worst of the shelling, you could get more in the stores than you can get here," says the general manager of the National Bank of Sudan. Uzzi isn't after anything fancy. "I buy a lot of bread," he says. "We freeze it, then I have something to give to my employees when the shortages come."

Sudan has long lived with shortages. But since last June's military coup, the beleaguered African nation has been so beset by scarcities that business has mostly shut down. In Khartoum's sprawling industrial district, the only bundle is provided by a herd of goats, foraging amid piles of refuse. Most of the factories are closed, or running at a fraction of capacity.

"Either the infrastructure has

broken down or the raw materials aren't available," complains Satti Hakim Ali, deputy general manager of Hagar Cigarette and Tobacco Factory Ltd., one of the few businesses still in partial operation. Before civil war broke out in Sudan's south, Hagar cigarettes were made mostly of home grown tobacco.

Now, farmers in the war-torn region can't sow their fields, so Hagar needs to import everything. But the new government has brought in stringent foreign exchange controls, and won't give the company sufficient currency to meet its needs. The government earns a 200 per cent tax on the sale of Hagar's cigarettes, "so we may be a bit luckier than other people," says Ali. At least the factory is producing at 40 per cent capacity.

— The Wall Street Journal.

## Khomeini's son urges hostility against U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — The late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's son called for continued hostility against America as thousands of Iranians gathered Thursday at Khomeini's tomb to mark the 11th anniversary of his return from exile, Tehran Radio reported.

In the first such anniversary since Khomeini's death on June 3, Ahmad Khomeini declared that his father, known as the imam, had "constantly" defied "global arrogance," meaning the United States and its allies.

"We must always remain on the imam's path," he said in the ceremony launching 10 days of celebrations for the triumph of Khomeini's Islamic Revolution.

# U.S. Top Grade Beef Homemade Pasta Fresh Seafood

## Al Walima

Al Walima has a brand new menu... Try it out!!!!

- Wednesday is steak night - Appetiser, steak and dessert for only JD 11 ++
- Quality guaranteed.
- Walk-ins welcome - Dress code: Casual.
- Children under 12 half price.
- Closed Sundays.

Al Walima restaurant is situated in Amman Marriott Hotel.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

**PROGRAMME ONE**  
15:30 ..... Koran  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children programme  
17:30 ..... Educational programme  
18:00 ..... News summary  
18:05 ..... Message from Iraq  
18:25 ..... A play by Shakespeare  
19:10 ..... Local programme  
19:40 ..... Programme review  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series  
21:30 ..... Programme review  
22:40 ..... Consumer's Guide  
22:55 ..... Local programme  
23:00 ..... News in Arabic

**PROGRAMME TWO**  
17:30 ..... Variety programme  
18:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Documentary  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
19:45 ..... Natural Phenomena  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Annie McChine  
21:00 ..... With the Corange  
21:40 ..... Spotlight  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film: "White Manna"

### PRAYER TIMES

05:06 ..... Fajr

06:25 ..... (Sunrise) Dura  
11:40 ..... Dhahr  
14:46 ..... 'Asr  
17:13 ..... Maghreb  
18:33 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swellish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Sothe Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 623543  
The Anglican Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of

### Metecology

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy with expected scattered showers and winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, which will be southerly moderate and sea rough.

Amman ..... Min./max. temp.  
15:00 ..... 4 / 11  
Aqaba ..... 10 / 20  
Dera ..... 3 / 12  
Jordan Valley ..... 9 / 18

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 11, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 85 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**NIGHT DUTY**  
AMBULANCE:  
Dr. Adnan Al-Zaghloul ..... 896140  
Dr. Jamil Meara ..... 770446  
Dr. Muneer Qasbi ..... 898101  
Dr. Adel Amman ..... 812148  
Flow pharmacy ..... 661912  
Rendow pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637035  
Nairobi pharmacy ..... 626072  
Al Sela pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

### State and pharmacy

637660  
BRAND:  
Dr. Adel Hattamleh ..... (—)  
Al Sharaf pharmacy ..... (983206)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Abdul Karim Khashash ..... (—)  
Khalid pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence immediate ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891226  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 890390  
Public Security Department ..... 630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 603800  
Police Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 891467  
Amman Municipality ..... 891467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdullah Telephone Repairs ..... 661101

### Jordan Television

773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 681010  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 616151  
Electric Power ..... 636381  
Company ..... 06-53200  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 06-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn ..... 644281/6  
Abdullah Maternity, J. Amn ..... 644412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsat ..... 661714  
Shamsat Hospital ..... 669151  
University Hospital ..... 645493  
Al-Musharraf Hospital ..... 667279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 661271/7  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 661646  
Irbid, Al-Musharraf ..... 771613  
Al-Bakir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marja ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 662403/0  
Amal Hospital ..... 674135  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)991071  
The Sina Hospital ..... (09)980732  
BRID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275535  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)272275

### Raj Al Nafes Hospital

(02)247100  
Aqaba:  
Falcon Hays Hospital ..... (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
16:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
17:45 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
18:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
18:15 ..... Amman (RJ)  
18:30 ..... New York (RJ)  
18:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
19:00 ..... London (RJ)  
19:15 ..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
19:30 ..... Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)  
19:45 ..... New York, Vienna (RJ)  
19:50 ..... Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)  
20:00 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
20:15 ..... Helsinki (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ), (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
12:25 ..... Riyadh (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
14:00 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
14:15 ..... Rome (RJ)  
14:30 ..... Dubai, Damascus (RJ)  
15:00 ..... Paris, Damascus (RJ)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
07:00 ..... Amman (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Helsinki (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Tripoli (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Vienna, Chicago (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:00 ..... London (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Paris (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Kuwait (RJ)  
13:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
13:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ), (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Baghdad (RJ)  
13:00 ..... Riyadh (RJ)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in JD per kg.  
Apple ..... 420 / 280  
Banana ..... 430 / 400  
Banana (Mekansu) ..... 400 / 250  
Pears ..... 600 / 300  
Cabbage ..... 90 / 60  
Carrot ..... 230 / 180  
Cauliflower ..... 140 / 120  
Cucumber (large) ..... 280 / 200  
Cucumber (small) ..... 440 / 280  
Dates ..... 180 / 150  
Eggplant ..... 140 / 100  
Geldi ..... 200 / 700  
Grapefruit ..... 210 / 170  
Lemon ..... 220 / 170  
Mango (large) ..... 220 / 130  
Mango (small) ..... 300 / 200  
Onion (red) ..... 370 / 220  
Onion (green) ..... 300 / 150  
Orange ..... 220 / 180  
Orange (Shamouti) ..... 230 / 180  
Pepper (red) ..... 480 / 450  
Pepper (green) ..... 400 / 350  
Radish ..... 130 / 100  
Sage ..... 420 / 400  
Tomato ..... 140 / 100  
Tomato ..... 120 / 100



## Cultural, musical week opens today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Saturday opens a cultural and musical week that includes local, Arab and international activities.

The week includes:

- The 12th meeting of the executive board of the Arab Academy of Music (Saturday and Sunday).
- The first Arab Music Rostrum (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons) organised by the International Music Council (UNESCO) and the Arab Academy of Music (League of Arab States), in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's National Music Conservatory, with the participation of the Arab Broadcasting Union and the National Music Committees

of the Arab member states of the International Music Council.

— A seminar entitled "Arab Music in Jordan Wednesday morning."

— A series of concerts presented by local groups and performers of local, Arab and international renown.

The opening ceremony, to be held at the Royal Cultural Centre, includes, in addition to an address by Minister of Culture Dr. Khaled Al Karaki, the following speakers:

- National Music Conservatory Director Kifah Fakhouri,
- Arab Academy of Music President Brigadier-General Tareq Abdul Hakim of Saudi Arabia,
- International Music Council



H.M. Queen Noor

Executive-Secretary Guy Hout, and

— Arab Music Academy Secretary-General Munir Bashir.

The opening ceremony will also include a performance by students of the Arab Music Section at the National Music Conservatory.

## U.S. says it does not finance settlements

AMMAN (J.T.) — An official spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Amman has said that the United States does not finance settlements in the occupied territories and that U.S. aid is totally limited to the area within the Green Line — of the Jewish state 1948 borders.

"The U.S. policy is based on the view that the establishment of settlements and settling settlers in the occupied territories does not serve the peace process," the spokesman was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra as saying Friday.

On the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, the spokesman said: "The U.S. policy (supports) increased emigration... because the United States is committed to the principle of people's freedom of movement wherever they are in this world. That is why the United States receives Soviet emigrants with no consideration to race or religion."

## RJ assigns pilots, engineers to Saudia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline, will send pilots, assistant pilots and flight engineers to Saudia, the Saudi Arabian airlines, under an agreement reached between the two airlines this week.

A statement from RJ offices in Amman said the agreement was reached following talks between RJ and Saudi officials, and that the assignment would take effect immediately.

Altogether, six pilots, six assistant pilots and four flight engineers would be assigned to work for Saudia. But the statement did not disclose the assignment's duration.

A ceremony was held at the Alia Gateway Hotel near the

Queen Alia International Airport, which was attended by representatives of Saudia, and RJ, as well as the assigned group, to make the announcement.

CAA-Netherlands accord

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Thursday reached an agreement with the Civil Aviation Authority in the Netherlands to increase the number of RJ's flights to Amsterdam to four every week.

The agreement was signed by CAA Director General Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz and the head of the Dutch Civil Aviation Authority.

## Crown Prince Awards presented

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 265 male and female students from various parts of Jordan Thursday received silver and bronze medals by the Crown Prince Award scheme in recognition of their efforts in the award programme.

The medals were presented at a ceremony here by Minister of Education and Higher Education Mohammad Hamdan at the end of a successful programme conducted by the awards committee involving participants aged between 15 and 25 in voluntary and charitable work as well as a recreational programme over the past several months.

The winners, according to the award committee, had to conduct charitable services or go on exploratory trips around the Kingdom or do sports and youth activities in various fields.

The minister in a brief speech at the ceremony, which was attended by Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghabashah, urged the young generation to do charitable and youth activities that would benefit their country.

## ACC media chiefs agree to highlight ACC events

CAIRO (Petra) — The directors of radio and television stations in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries have recommended giving priority in radio and television newscasts to news about the ACC countries, Director General of the Jordan Company for Television, Radio, and Cinema Production Jawad Marqah said.

"They also recommended a new plan related to television transmission including transmission of programmes on national holidays, encouraging the transmission of jointly-produced programmes and exchange of announcers," Marqah told Jordan News Agency, Petra, following the conclusion of meetings in Cairo, Thursday.

**MINISTER OPPOSES PROPOSAL:** The youth sector constitutes 70 per cent of the population in Jordan, and this fact necessitates the need for a ministry devoted to running their affairs, according to Minister of Youth Ibrahim Ghabashah said. In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the minister said a proposal which was made by a Lower House of Parliament member for cancelling the Ministry of Youth "contradicts reality as there are ministries of youth in most countries."

**DEAD BABY FOUND:** Security authorities have picked up the dead body of a newborn girl from the East Ghor canal after it was discovered by a passer-by, according to the Al Rai Arabic daily. The dead body was transferred to Ma'az Ibn Jabal Hospital (J.T.).

## Local contractors want priority from government

By Ziyad Al Shilleh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) has sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Mudar Badran demanding that foreign contracting companies be stopped from carrying out projects which could be implemented by local contracting companies.

The association's president, Ali Abul Ragheb, said in the memorandum that foreign contractors were still getting no less than 32 per cent of total contracting projects in the country and demanded that priority be given to Jordanian contractors in all government projects.

The memorandum also called on the government and the Ministry of Public Works to pay compensation to local contractors under a commitment made to them last July. It also called for

government support for the association, which, he said, was trying to find work for unemployed engineers in local construction projects, Abul Ragheb said.

He said since 1988, local contracting companies had been facing very difficult conditions as a result of economic hardships in Jordan, which, he said, had had adverse effects on the completion of various projects.

He said that there were 800 contractors in Jordan employing 11 per cent of the total workforce and contributing to nearly eight per cent of the gross national product.

Contractors are also involved in approximately 26 per cent of total banking in the country, Abul Ragheb added.

He said the memorandum requested that the government endorse the arbitration law in a bid to contribute towards further development in the country.

## Shmeisani pharmacy robbed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A pharmacy located in the Shmeisani district close to the Professional Associations Complex has reported that two masked men stole JD 233 from the cash box, according to a report in the local press.

The report said that the two men entered the pharmacy at eight in the evening and asked for medication for a headache. While

the female pharmacist was getting the medicine, one of them held a knife to her back ordering her to open the box and hand over its contents.

The total amount stolen was JD 233, according to the pharmacist, identified only as S.A.D., who said the robbers later left in a car. Police were still investigating the case Thursday.

## Jordan, Syria review joint transport operations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Syrian Minister of Transport Yusef Ahmad has ended a two-day visit to Jordan and left for home after co-chairing a meeting here of the Jordanian-Syrian land transport and maritime transport companies and signing minutes of the meetings with his Jordanian counterpart Ibrahim Ayyoub.

Upon the signing of the minutes, it was announced that the joint maritime company, which operates cargo vessels owned jointly by Jordan and Syria, has made profits estimated at 30 million Syrian pounds from its operations in 1989. It was also

announced that the joint Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company made net profits from its 1989 operations but no figures were disclosed by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The two ministers attended general assembly meetings of the two companies here and discussed strategies for 1990.

The minutes, signed by the two ministers, endorsed the 1989 final accounts and programmes of the two companies' operations in 1990, according to Petra. The minutes provide for an expansion of operations by two companies during the current year.

## France sees Jordan as stability factor, continues support

AMMAN (J.T.) — France is following with deep interest the democratic experiment in Jordan and will continue to provide assistance to the Kingdom to help it overcome its economic difficulties, French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bauchard said Friday.

"France believes that Jordan serves as a factor of stability and can play a basic role in the Middle East," the ambassador said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra. "Jordan and France hold identical ideas about the Palestine problem and other issues in the Middle East, like Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq conflict," he was quoted as saying by Petra.

The ambassador said French companies had been helping the Kingdom in the fields of civil aviation and telecommunications and cooperation in the fields of antiquities and archaeological excavation was an ongoing process.

He said France played a leading role in helping Jordan reschedule its debts to the Paris Club and would continue to extend economic support for the

Kingdom.

In the two-hour interview, the ambassador discussed his country's views with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

"France refuses all de facto situations resulting from violence and believes in negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which represents the Palestinian people, under the umbrella of an international peace conference held under United Nations auspices and with the participation of all concerned parties as well as the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council," Bauchard said.

France, he added, "supports the rights of the Palestinian people in determining their own future and in establishing their own state on their homeland."

He said Israel's refusal of all peace initiatives can only add more obstacles in the path of just peace.

Referring to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's state-



Denis Bauchard

ments on creating a "greater Israel", and the recent escalation of repressive measures against the Palestinians, Bauchard said: "Such moves can never facilitate the start of the proposed dialogue between Palestinians and the Israeli government."

"France adopts a clear and firm stand opposing any Israeli expansion in the occupied West Bank and the Jerusalem area," he added.

In reply to a question about the influx of Jews from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to Israel and possibly to the occupied Arab territories, the ambassador said "if all these immigrants are settled in the West Bank there is no doubt that a dangerous situation will be created detrimental to the peace prospect in the region."

## Ministry to provide free water to stockbreeders

AMMAN (J.T.) — In view of the poor rainfall this winter, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has decided to provide free-of-charge water supplies to stockbreeders in six governorates, according to a statement carried by the Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

The paper, quoting an official at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, said that water would be supplied to farms from 28 artesian wells in the region.

It said that stockbreeders in Maan Governorate would get the lion's share of the water supply, with water from eight wells, while those in Mafrqa and Zarqa would get water from two wells and two wells would provide water for stockbreeders in the Amman and Karak regions.

The Department of Meteorology said Thursday that the frost which affected Jordan in the past month had hit the Jordan Valley region with adverse consequences on agricultural crops.

The department said that temperatures during the past month registered two degrees Centigrade less than the annual average, but there were 13 days of rain in all regions, specially the northern and central parts of the Kingdom.

Bakoura had the highest level of rains in the past month, registering a total of 156 millimetres, the department said.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, conducted a survey on the situation in the Jordan Valley and the extent of damage sustained by agricultural crops as a result of

frost.

The agency quoted engineer Mazen Khasawneh, director of the Department of Agriculture in the Jordan Valley region, as saying that the climax of the frosty weather hit the valley on Jan. 25, 1990, when temperatures dropped to several degrees below freezing point in some cases.

The damages to the crops were not as big as those sustained in the past winter, but heavy damage was reported to fruits and vegetables by local farmers in the region, according to Khasawneh. He said areas close to the River Jordan were most affected by the cold weather, which hit such crops as marrows that sustained damage, reaching some cases to 90 per cent.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITION

★ A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

### FILMS

★ A German video for children entitled "Dicke Luft" at the Goethe Institute — 4:00 p.m.  
★ A German video entitled "Das Jahr der Hoffnung" at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.  
★ A German video entitled "Themen" at the Goethe Institute — 8:30 p.m.

## PLO leaders

(Continued from page 1)

emerges with a mandate to go to the talks, the foreign ministers could meet next Saturday night, possibly in Vienna, the sources said.

"The possibility is there. It's suddenly become a viable option," said one Arab source in Washington.

The meeting is intended to pave the way to what would be historic talks between Israel and a Palestinian delegation to arrange Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Egypt, which is representing the PLO in negotiations, delivered what appeared to be "important PLO concessions" on the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the United States last week, Reuters said.

The PLO agreed that the announcement about the composition of the delegation should be made not by its leader Yasser Arafat but by Egypt as the host of the talks.

The delegation would include two Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories by Israel not associated with guerrilla activity or convicted of crimes of violence against Israel. Two residents of Arab Jerusalem who also owned property elsewhere in the territories would also be included.

According to the sources, should Shamir win his showdown in the Likud meeting, Baker would rush to hold the ministerial meeting as quickly as possible.

## Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein

and on the Occasion of the 12th Meeting of the Executive Board of the Arab Academy of Music and the 1st Arab Music Rostrum.

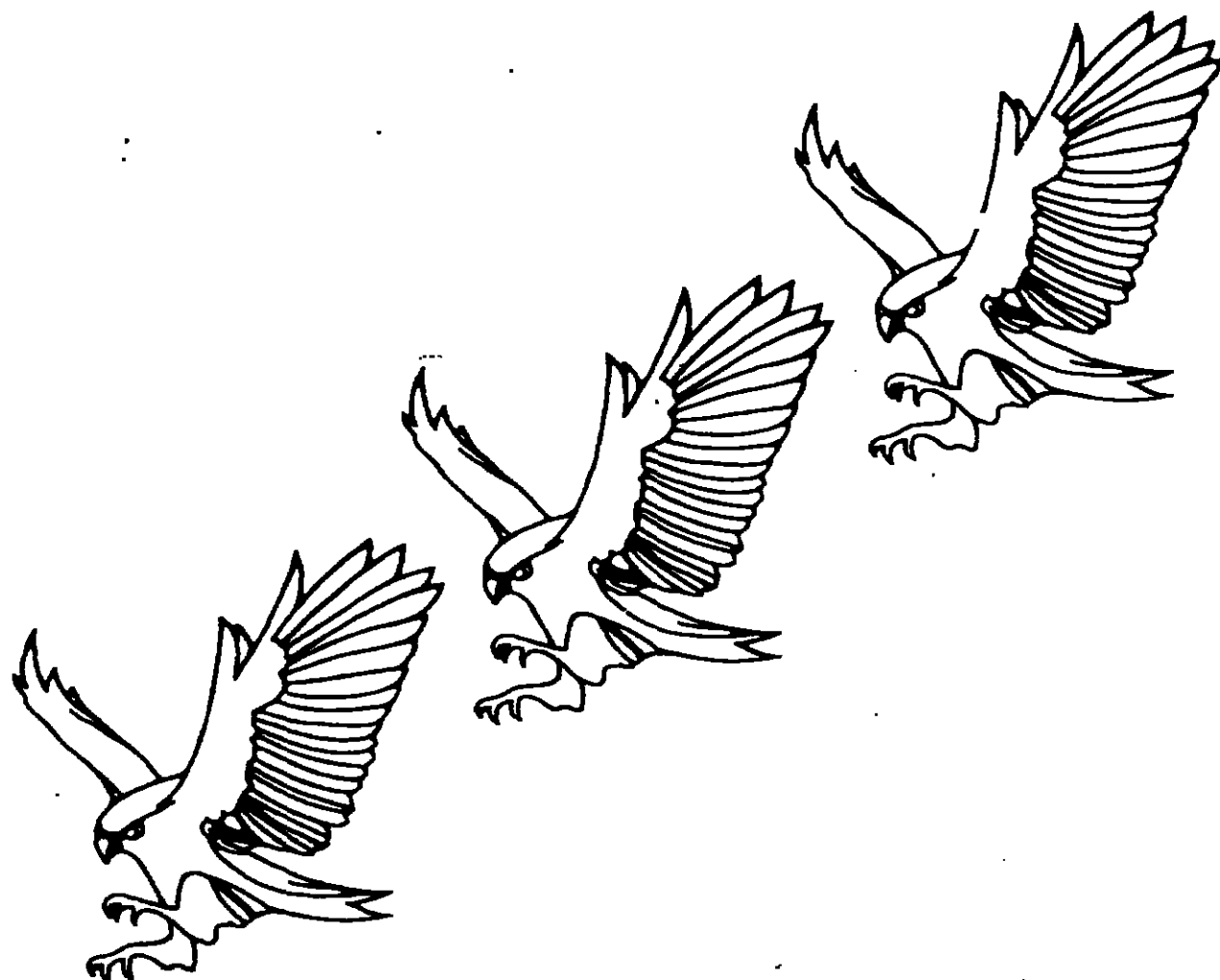
The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation organises the following concerts:

Date	Concert	Place
Saturday 3/2/1990	THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA of the Jordanian Armed Forces	Royal Cultural Centre
Sunday 4/2/1990	FUHEIS GROUP for Revival of Heritage	Philadelphia Hotel
Monday 5/2/1990	French Oud Player MARK LOOPUYT (in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre)	Philadelphia Hotel
Tuesday 6/2/1990	THE ARAB NAGHAM ORCHESTRA (in cooperation with the Association of Jordanian Musicians)	Philadelphia Hotel
Wednesday 7/2/1990	Pianist and composer PATRICK LAMA	Philadelphia Hotel
Thursday 8/2/1990	Renowned Iraqi Oud Player MUNIR BASHIR	Philadelphia Hotel

All concerts will start at 8:00 p.m. Tickets for each concert are for JD 3 a piece. A combination ticket for all six concerts is available at JD 14.500.

Tickets available at: The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 669026  
The French Cultural Centre, Tel. 637009  
Philadelphia Hotel, Tel. 663100  
The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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## Solution from within

THE ONGOING confrontation in Lebanon between General Michel Aoun's forces and Samir Geagea's militia is a grim reminder that the Lebanese conflict is far from being over or that its settlement is imminent. The savage fighting that erupted between the two Christian forces came on the heels of the bitter fighting between Amal and Hizbollah militias. The total picture emerging from all these parallel internecine armed conflicts portray a Lebanese story where normalcy has become one of bloodletting and destruction. With all Arab and foreign efforts to stop the death and destruction in Lebanon have been exhausted without avail, the question that remains is what else can be done to salvage the Lebanese from themselves.

The Arab League and its Higher Committee on Lebanon have done their utmost to bring back harmony and understanding among the fighting Lebanese factions. An Arab summit is therefore not likely to succeed where all past Arab efforts have failed. Short of armed intervention, which is obviously not in the cards, additional Arab efforts cannot be expected to offer a decisive solution to the ongoing fighting in Lebanon. Likewise all international efforts have failed to deliver the kind of peace that Lebanon has yearned for over the past 15 years. The only remaining way to break the deadlock and erase the despair in the Arab World and elsewhere must come from the Lebanese people themselves. The psychology of war that permeates their national psyche needs to be redressed and replaced with another spirit and attitude that may have the seeds for salvation. For this purpose, the warlords in Lebanon must be bypassed and the Lebanese people, whatever their faith or ideologies, must take their destiny into their own hands. This goal can be realised through direct contacts and communications between the various factions that are now themselves fuelling the continuing war with their own blood and lives. Another step in that direction can take the form of a truly democratic elections in the country under an Arab or international supervision to yield a national reconciliation government. Yet, whatever the route that the Lebanese people would want to take, the ultimate solution must come from within. There is a limit to what others can do for the Lebanese and unless they choose to help themselves there is not much that the outside world can do for them.

### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday welcomed a decision by the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran to send out ministers to various governorates in order to try to discover problems and find solutions for them. The paper said that it is part of the government's mission to which it dedicated itself upon its inception and in accordance with royal directives. But it warned that citizens meeting with the ministers should not seize the opportunity to burden the government with intolerable demands. The paper said that while the Jordanian people welcome such a move which is a part of the going march towards democracy, it should be noted that Jordan has limited means especially at present when the country is trying to pay back debts and at the same time carry out development projects. There is no doubt that the government will try to do all it can to solve problems, but one should not expect miracles overnight, said the paper. What is required at the moment, the paper added, is full cooperation on the part of citizens and various organisations so that common aspirations can be fulfilled.

Writing in Al Ra'i Arabic daily columnist Fakri Kassar says that the Ministry of Supply seems to have done nothing today to solve the problem of fresh meat shortage in the country. The writer notes that citizens have been used to eating imported Romanian fresh meat which is no more available in Jordan for a number of reasons. But he says the citizens of this country cannot buy locally produced meat either because of its soaring prices, selling most often at JD 4 a kilo. Furthermore, Kassar says, the imported frozen meat does not meet the taste of the people and can by no means serve as a substitute for imported fresh meat. The ideal thing, says the writer, is to allow merchants to import live sheep to be slaughtered in Jordan provided the government facilitate this process by refraining from charging import fees and duty on this kind of meat which could be sold at prices close to the Romanian meat. Such a policy, he says, would no doubt solve the meat shortage problem and help local butchers to resume their business and earn their livelihoods.

Al Dustour daily commented on His Majesty King Hussein's pledge Thursday to provide all possible support for the Jordan Press Association, and said that the King is aware of the critical stage which the Arab Nation in general and Jordan in particular are going through; and he appreciates the role of the press in spreading public awareness. The paper said that King Hussein linked the support for the press with his call on journalists to shoulder their responsibility towards their nation at this crucial stage. One can only hear reports about Israel's atrocities in the occupied territories and its drive to absorb an influx of Jewish immigrants to be settled on Arab land, to realise the dangerous situation the Arab Nation is now facing, said the paper. For this reason, the paper added, Jordan through its media and all its power is trying to unify Arab ranks in the face of the common threat, and to provide all possible support for the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom.

### View from Amman

# Democracy and the National Charter

By Kamel Abu Jaber

DEMOCRACY: That magic word loaded with explosive connotations and nuances. One of the most beautiful words in the dictionary of man in any culture, it was best articulated by the ancient Greeks. The meaning they gave it then remains the most valid, indeed the most explosive: it simply means peoples' (demo) rule (cracy). Nothing more and nothing less. As simple and direct as the concept may be it rests on a number of assumptions regarding man; the average man, his abilities and his relationships with the polity in which he resides.

Basically it has an optimistic view of men, all men. All men are created equal before God and all men can, if given the chance and the proper circumstances not only participate in the political process but assume responsibility, even the highest responsibility of governance as well. This dignified and exalted status given to every human being implies not only that his body but his mind and opinions be respected as well. He must be allowed to move freely; to associate freely and be guaranteed his basic rights within the framework of a constitutionally limited government. A government of institutions not men, laws not wills, election not selection and reason not intuition.

But democratic government is not only right and privilege alone, but responsibility as well. The citizen is free to act within the bounds of reason, law, ethics and etiquette so that his freedom is not licence but privilege to be cherished and nurtured.

Perhaps that lay behind King Hussein's words when he first mentioned the possibility of the passage of a National Charter on

May 10, 1989; a charter to represent a "national code of conduct" building upon and adding to the open and lenient atmosphere that has always distinguished Jordan from most other Arab regimes.

At the time of our King's words we were, as we still are, undergoing three major crises at the same time. The first which we share with all other Arab states is an ideological one concerning the very ideological nature of the regime. Is it an Islamic, nationalist, traditional, socialist, leftist or simply an authoritarian regime? The question, however important, may never be fully answered. Maybe it is wise never to answer it but to develop with time and circumstance adapting ideology to life rather than the other way around. In passing we should note the failure of Communism to fashion all life in accordance with ideology resulting in its present breakdown over the past few months.

The second crisis is a strictly Jordanian one coming in the wake of the July 31, 1988 disengagement from the West Bank. Though the disengagement was a legal and administrative one, it left a trail of unanswered questions regarding not only the Palestinian factor in Jordan's life, but the very role of Jordan in the entire Palestine question; surely the disengagement decided and yet it did not decide. The grey areas predominate the black and white, with ambiguity, and for the time being, predominating all else.

The third crisis, an economic one is also a purely Jordanian one. But then again is it purely Jordanian or does it have

implications for those around? How is it that Jordan is undergoing such a severe crisis while a "top United Arab Emirates (UAE) investment official... estimated that Arab investments abroad stand at about \$400 billion" (JORDAN TIMES January 27, 1990, P. 6).

These three crises form the backdrop of the call for the National Charter, and set the stage for the Jordanian parliamentary elections of November 8, 1989. It was however, not from a sense of failure that both emanated but the other way around. For Jordan was always distinguished by the promise of liberalisation it maintained. Often it was made accountable against that promise. The National Charter should be a complement, not replace the constitution. It should be an ideological, political, economic statement to rally people and not a rigid manifesto that builds walls around them. It should allow for free opinion and free association mindful of the failure of the National Union of the 1970s and of the presently falling Iron and Bamboo curtains.

The regime of Jordan is a seasoned well-led centrist one that has nothing to fear from its people. It can dialogue with them thus deepening their sense of loyalty and belonging and should have the confidence, which it already displayed with the elections and their aftermath, to expand its bases of legitimacy. We emerged into the twentieth century a bewildered and disoriented people. Only democracy, through dialogue and responsible debate can give us direction and finally allow the Head to Lie Easy.

## Soviet Jewish influx heightens tension in Middle East

By Paul Taylor  
Reuters

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM** — A mass influx of Soviet Jews to Israel has abruptly changed the mood of the Middle East, giving Israelis a new self-confidence and spreading alarm among Palestinians and Arab states.

The prospect of 50,000 to 100,000 Soviet Jews moving to Israel this year and between 250,000 and 750,000 over the next five years is forcing fundamental rethinking about the demographic and political balance in the region.

The reversal is stark after two years in which Israel was on the defensive, beset by a Palestinian uprising its military power could

not crush and losing political support in the West.

"The impact of Soviet immigration cannot be overestimated in terms of Arab perceptions of Israel," said Asher Susser, head of Tel Aviv University's Dayan Centre for Middle East Studies.

Arab commentators and newspapers are suddenly full of gloomy prognosis about the impact of Soviet Jewish immigration. There is talk of an Arab summit on the issue.

"The world is celebrating the new freedoms in Eastern Europe and paying little attention to what is happening in the Middle East," a Nicotia-based PLO official said. "They are celebrating at our

expense," he added.

For years, many Arabs had perceived Israel to be in slow decline, its pioneering spirit almost gone and Jewish emigration outpacing immigration.

They saw the PLO's decision in November 1988 to recognise Israel as acknowledgement that Palestinians could live in peace with an Israel no longer bent on expansion.

Soviet immigration has changed everything. "Israel has scored several rounds recently," said the Saudi newspaper Al Riyadh on Jan. 30. "Arab weakness is responsible."

Susser said Arabs who regarded the Israelis as latter-day Crusaders, an alien people des-

igned to disappear from the Middle East, were realising the tide of history was not on their side. This might in time foster a new realism, he said.

"If the future is not on their side, they may have more of an interest in accommodation with Israel," Susser said.

Few in the Arab World would agree that the changes are bringing peace nearer. Instead there are fears that Israel's new ebullience will aggravate age-old enmities.

"It shows that we may have been wrong in thinking that an Arab-Israeli peace was possible," the PLO official said. Arab governments and the

PLO have protested to the Kremlin, seizing on a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that a "big Israel," including the occupied territories, was needed to settle Soviet Jews.

In a memorandum to Western governments, Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories said the influx of immigrants would reverse the demographic status quo and be "an additional step in the process of the dispossession of the Palestinians."

Many Palestinians say they feel dejected as their uprising is elbowed out of the headlines by the influx of Soviet Jews.

At present there are 3.7 million Jews and 650,000 Arabs inside Israel's pre-1967 borders and 1.75 million Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Given the higher Arab birth rate, demographers had forecast that the number of Arabs under Israeli rule would outstrip the number of Jews early in the next century.

The Soviet Union warned Israel on Jan. 29 against settling Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

It has also tried to assuage Arab anger by holding up implementation of an agreement for direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, which would speed emigration.

But the Kremlin has signalled to Arab states there will be no

fundamental change in its emigration policy.

Soviet ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk told the Jordan Times that Moscow could do little to stop Soviet Jews coming to Israel.

"The Soviets are trying to find symbolic and unimportant ways to compensate the Arabs," said professor Galia Golan of the Hebrew University.

Israel says Shamir's speech was deliberately misinterpreted and there is no policy of directing Soviet Jews to the occupied territories.

The immigration ministry said only 0.5 per cent of new immigrants moved there last year. A few hundred have settled in the West Bank in recent months and virtually none in Gaza.

"It is the Arabs who have now created the hysteria and are pressuring the Russians on the question of Jewish immigration. This is an artificial storm which will pass very soon," Shamir said Jan. 29.

Privately, senior Israeli diplomats said his "big Israel" remark, made to a hardline domestic political audience, was a blunder that harmed Israel's interests.

Western diplomats said it reflected a new assertiveness demonstrated by an increasing Israeli reluctance to make any concessions on Middle East peace talks.

## Omar elected JWA president

(Continued from page 1)

for "illegal meetings" for banned political parties.

The accusations not only reflected the official opposition to the activities of political parties in Jordan but also the fact that many of its writer members were either affiliated or sympathised with leftist political groups.

The closure of the association provoked broad Arab condemnation, especially by writers and academics. Many prominent Arab poets boycotted the poetry recitals at the annual 1987 Jerash Festival.

But following last April's price riots, writers and journalists renewed their campaign to resurrect the association. The association was brought back to life immediately after the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran pledged to lift martial law and revoke all orders based on its provisions.

The association's former president, Dr. Khaled Karaki, resigned after he was appointed minister of culture in the Cabinet of Badran. Karaki attended Friday's elections, which signalled a new beginning for the association.

But the elections themselves reflected a schism within the

ranks of the association despite a longstanding and almost unified position in support of freedom of expression.

The two competing lists, one headed by Omar and the other by leftist activist and novelist Salem Nahas, included prominent writers who, at least in theory, did not display serious differences regarding the association's role, objectives or even political stances.

As many observers noted, the differences reflected the prevailing schism in the Jordanian left which was strongly manifested during last November's general elections to the Lower House of Parliament.

Another point of difference, it seems, is the role of political groups, which are still legally banned in the association. In his column in Al Ra'i daily Thursday, Omar, who is traditionally close to leftist groups, criticised what he described as some groups' attempts "to impose their hegemony on the association's activities."

He implied that the dominance of some political groups over the association had overshadowed the writers' creativity and literary credentials as determining factors in the association's activities and annual literary prizes.

The article was criticised by some writers as a reminder of the charges cited by the Rifai government when the association was dissolved in June 1987.

But writers close to Omar said that the celebrated poet did not mean to oppose the involvement of organised political activists who are also renowned writers in the association. The article was broadly seen as a criticism of Omar's competitor, Nahas, who is a member of the Jordan Democratic People's Party.

Nahas, a longstanding activist who spent years in jail, won 101 votes, ranking second after novelist Ibrahim Al Abi.

Immediately after the elections the council met and elected Omar as president and named the responsibilities of other members. Council sources said that the list headed by Nahas refused to assume any post.

But later on, Nahas, who did not attend the meeting, said that he was contesting the results of the council's elections since he was not notified of the meeting.

"They are trying to impose a hegemony that they claimed to

resent," Nahas told the Jordan Times in a reference to Omar's article.

In a later interview, Omar said that the council would work as one coherent unit and pledged that all members of the council would be involved in the association's activities.

Despite the acrimony, the elections indicated an increase in prospects of unifying the writers' movement in the country. Around 40 writers who had joined the Jordan's Writer's Union, which was created by the Rifai government to replace the dissolved writers association, rejoined the association.

"We are determined to find a formula that will unify the writers' movement," Omar said.

But observers said that elections of the association and its practical return would undermine the position of the union.

The new elected council is as follows:

Abdul Rahim Omar (president); Bader Abdul Haq (vice president); Salem Nahas; Ibrahim Abasi; Elias Farkouh; Abdullah Radwan; Jamal Naji; Rashem Gharaibeh; Hussein Jumaa; Ibrahim Khalil and Ibrahim Nasrallah.

## Bank staff threaten strike if demands not met

(Continued from page 1)

bank be properly and scientifically identified so that the right solutions are implemented, "rather than wasting time and stalling the development of the work."

They asked that the bank work towards regaining its credibility with its clients because, the petition said, a large portion of the bank's deposits was lost in the last few months. They also demanded that the CBJ gradually reduce its support for the bank so that the bank can eventually repay its debts.

Only one item in the petition asked for "higher and fair wages and raises." According to the employees, they have not received raises in five years.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi and Finance Minister Basel Jarrahneh would not comment on the petition or the threat to strike by the Petra Bank employees.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times Friday, Petra Bank general manager Bassam Atari said there was no need for a strike.

"We have formulated committees from within the bank to study the conditions of the employees. The financial results should be concluded

within a week. I agree that the wages and conditions of the employees are just, and we are working on improving the situation," Atari said.

Atari expressed regret that the first petition signed by the employees was submitted to the government rather than to the management. According to Atari, the employees want to fight against the policy of the management rather than demanding improved conditions. He referred to the fact that only one item of the petition asked for involved financial demands.

Since the appointed management took over in August, 10 employees have been sacked and 50 have resigned, according to a personnel officer of the bank. About 680 are currently employed by the bank, which has many branches in Jordan.

One employee who has sacked a few months ago told the Jordan Times that article 17 of the Labour Law was used against all those who were fired. This article entitles the management to sack any employee without warning and without compensation if the person is accused of a criminal activity such as theft or embezzlement or corruption.

According to the fired employee, who preferred to remain anonymous, those dismissed were not accused of any crime and were not given any reason for their dismissal.

Atari said there were two categories of people who were sacked: "those who signed illegal papers while the previous management was in power and did not reveal the illegality of the matter at the time, and those who were in high positions in the old management."

He did not elaborate. According to several employees, some of whom are heads of departments and branches, the new management was supposed to have solved the bank's problems and improved the work of the bank. Apparently, one of them told the Jordan Times, "only time has been wasted and nothing substantial has been achieved to improve and press ahead with the work of the bank."

"On the contrary," he said, "the current management has been wasting time with unnecessary bureaucracy that has made us lose clients. Instead of focusing on our clients and international business, the concentration is on paperwork and reports for the management."

Another employee said that

another important element which made the bank lose clients was the "bad publicity against the bank, initiated by our management and delivered by officials through the media."

One of the employees attending Thursday's meeting demanded that "the weekly television series defaming our bank must stop."

"It's as if we were the ones responsible for the economic decline of the country," he said. "If the government wants to bring to justice the person who was involved in the corruption of the bank, it knows the person, his name and address. Bring him to justice. Why do we have to suffer for someone else's mismanagement?" he asked as the crowd cheered him.

Many of the employees at the meeting expressed frustration over the way the current management is running the bank. Some described it as being the only institution in Jordan where democracy has not reached.

According to Amman Deputy Mansour Murad, who worked at the bank for a short period and has close friends employed there, "Petra Bank employees are terrorised by their management."

## King lauds press

(Continued from page 1)

Israel was striving to gain more Arab land, evict Palestinians from their homeland and settle new Jewish immigrants to their place.

The meeting, which was followed by a lunch hosted by the King, was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

## Trade official sees need

(Continued from page 1)

appliances, furnishings, electronic items, finished leather goods and other finished garments.

He said although he believed Jordanian products could be marketed in the U.S. there were certain problem which needed to be resolved.

"Jordanian businessmen need to increase the quality of information available to eventual importers and investors," he said.

He said that Jordan's membership in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) was a point of attraction for those who wanted to invest in Jordan. "Jordan has the personnel and the infrastructure and through the ACC it has the market," he said.

Abinader said he welcomed the increasing emphasis on the private sector in Jordan, adding that government policies should encourage and not hinder the output of the country's private sector. He added that U.S. trade facilitations for Jordan and the general system of preference (GSP) were "greatly under-utilised."

Jordanians seem to have "forgotten about" the \$60 million recurring line of credit available to them from the U.S., he said.

Pointing out that Jordan had once again become interesting to U.S. investors, Abinader said: "The investment will now get further here than ever before. You have high quality labour, you have a proven business preference for American products, and you don't have a language barrier."

Abinader believes that Jordanians planning to manufacture and export need to do careful market studies and create research and data infrastructure that will help future

manufacturers and industrialists in the country. "Jordanian business people have to define their goals and markets more clearly."

The U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce was founded in New York in 1967. Today it has offices in Chicago, San Francisco, Houston and Washington, D.C., where it is currently based. The chamber's main function is to certify commercial documents and to promote trade and facilitate governmental trade relations. The chamber has concluded agreements with both state and federal government agencies in the U.S. to help institutionalise Arab-U.S. trade relations. The chamber has over 1,000 members in the U.S.

Abinader said that a possible "trade-triangle" of the future could be one which combined Gulf funds, U.S. technology and Jordan's human and manufacturing resources. "Other than that there are also possibilities of joint venture among the U.S., Canada and Jordan. Actually if you have the right mentality then the possibilities are endless," he said.

During his visit here, Abinader held talks with government officials and businessmen as well as those involved in private enterprise development programmes.

"I invite Jordanians to participate in the international trade show to be held in Washington, D.C. from April 20-25," he said before continuing his eight-country tour of the region.

"Business means taking chances, and as soon as Jordanian business people accept that, there sooner they are likely to take world markets by storm," Abinader concluded.







## ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

## NYSE chief to retire this year

**NEW YORK (R)** — New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Chairman John Phelan, the man who led Wall Street through its worst crash in history, said Thursday he would leave his post at the helm of the nation's largest stock exchange at the end of the year. The NYSE said it regretfully accepted Phelan's plans to retire and had appointed a committee to find a successor. It is expected to make its recommendations this autumn. Phelan, who will turn 60 next year, is perhaps best remembered for his calm and determined leadership during the October 1987 stock market crash when the world's financial markets appeared on the brink of collapse. "It's the nearest thing to a meltdown that I ever want to see," said Phelan after the Oct. 19 crash, in a often-repeated quote that succinctly characterised the feelings of the day. "John Phelan will be best remembered for the strong, steady leadership he has provided for the entire securities industry during one of the most turbulent periods in its history," said William Schreyer, chairman and chief executive of Merrill Lynch and Company.

## Lawson Joins Barclays Bank

**LONDON (R)** — Nigel Lawson, who resigned as Britain's finance minister last October, is joining Barclays PLC. as a non-executive director, the British banking group has said. The former chancellor of the exchequer, who quit Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's cabinet after a row over who had control of economic policy, will spend two days a week on business connected with the parent company and its Barclays Bank PLC subsidiary. "Lawson's distinguished record at the helm of economic and financial policy in the U.K. make him a noteworthy addition to our board," Barclays chairman Sir John Quinlan said. Lawson, who celebrates his 58th birthday next month, was a financial journalist before being elected to parliament in 1974. He was made energy secretary in 1981 and became chancellor of the exchequer in 1988. He remains a member of parliament for the ruling Conservative Party. Barclays said Lawson would also have an advisory role within the group with particular reference to the brokerage division, Barclays De Zoete Wedd.

**ROME (R) —** The United Nations' biggest food agencies fear the West's scramble to nourish reformist Eastern Europe with millions of dollars in aid will worsen the plight of thousands of people facing famine in the Third World.

Pope John Paul, starting a tour of Africa's poverty-stricken sahel region, said last week that rich countries "cannot abandon their common and current responsibility for the south" to help Eastern Europe.

His appeal echoed the worries of the United Nations' food agencies.

"It's a great worry. We've only got one pie, a lot more people want a slice of it — and it's not getting any bigger," said Paul Mitchell, spokesman for the Rome-based World Food Programme (WFP), which handles nearly one quarter of the world's food aid.

The upheavals in the East Bloc have prompted a huge Western support programme, including negotiations to set up a special development bank for the region and deliveries of emergency food aid coordinated by the European Community (EC).

The WFP says Italy has slashed its own contributions to the agency by two thirds for 1990, from \$28 to \$8 million, and put that into aid to Eastern Europe.

Rome has denied that the Third World will suffer as a result of its generosity to Eastern Europe but Italian Treasury Minister Guido Carli has himself questioned where "the extra money will come from.

Japan, rivaling the United States as a leading donor nation, last month pledged a package of aid and credits to Poland and Hungary worth \$1.8 billion.

"Where's the morality? how can Japan find millions of dollars overnight to pump into Eastern Europe? asked one senior aid agency official who declined to be named.

"Obviously those countries need help, but nobody is dying of hunger in Eastern Europe. That money could have saved lives in the Third World months ago," he added.

The Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the U.N.'s largest agency, recently warned against helping Eastern Europe "at the expense of the developing countries, where the need is still great."

Director-General Edouard Saouma appealed for massive international help to combat famine in Ethiopia.

"The world cannot allow a repetition of the disastrous famine that struck Ethiopia just five years ago," he said.

Relief workers question the sending of emergency food aid to Eastern Europe. The EC has already approved more than \$50 million in food and medical aid to Romania.

"Take Romania. Poland, Hungary — their daily calorie supply per head is greater than or equal to the supply in many Community countries," said one senior WFP official.

"For the West, it's more sexy to send money to the East Bloc

than to the South. Public opinion loves it. And the Community sees it as a chance to take former communist countries under its wing," he added.

Scandinavian countries, the most generous donors to developing nations, and the Community, have pledged that help for Eastern Europe will be additional to Third World aid.

"The EC...is determined to respond to the needs of East European countries, but not at the expense of other areas. There is no contradiction, or competition between the two objectives," EC spokesman Nico Weeter said.

The U.S. administration, among the biggest donors to Eastern Europe so far, said last month it wanted more flexibility in distributing billions of dollars in foreign aid so that it could give more money to the region.

President George Bush's team has not yet laid out the finer details of the 1991 foreign aid budget, which calls for \$300 million in new aid for Eastern Europe.

**NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)** — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said his government can launch reconstruction now parliament has given final approval to part of his \$112 billion five-year plan, Tehran television reported Thursday.

"This" will be considered an important day in the history of our revolution," he said in an interview recorded in Tehran Wednesday night.

Rafsanjani, leader of Iran's so-called pragmatists, has been fighting for weeks to get his five-year plan past radicals who dominate the 270-seat Majlis, or parliament.

They oppose Rafsanjani's efforts to mend ties with the West to end Iran's isolation and attract badly needed foreign investment and technology.

The radicals, led by former interior minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, believe foreign investment and heightened contact with the West will pollute the revolutionary ideals dictated by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Mohtashemi, who was elected to parliament in December after being dumped from government by Rafsanjani, said earlier this month that he opposed any direct foreign investment in Iran.

The plan was passed by the Majlis after Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned parliament not to obstruct Rafsanjani in the national interest.

But the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), also monitored in Nicosia, reported last week that the 12-member Council of Guardians, which screens legislation to ensure it does not violate the tenets of Islam, sent part of the plan back to parliament for amendment.

It is still not clear which part of the plan the Council of Guardians approved and whether parliament has amended those parts the council rejected.

Although Rafsanjani's government had been seeking the full approval of the plan before launching it, his statements appeared to indicate he will start moving on the plan now rather than wait for full approval by the Council of Guardians.

Rafsanjani served warning on radicals who occupy many levels in the government bureaucracy: "Those who will perform their duties in implementing this plan will be encouraged, and those who hesitate will be questioned."

YES, MA'AM, I'D LIKE PERMISSION TO LEAVE EARLY...MY DOG IS EXPECTING ME HOME

SOMETIMES HE HAS BAD DREAMS AND NEEDS COMFORTING...

WHAT DID SHE SAY, CHARLIE BROWN?

WELL, SHE STARTED OFF BY SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT "IN ALL HER YEARS OF TEACHING," AND THEN I MISSED THE LAST PART...

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**Peanuts**

**THIS IS MISS JONES! SHE IS A MEMBER OF OUR CLUB!**

**DANCE?**

**YOU'RE NOT DOING THE CHA CHA CHA!**

**NO!**

**GOOD GRIEF WHAT NEW DANCE ARE YOU DOING?**

**I'M NOT DOING A NEW DANCE!**

**I'M LOSING MY GARTER.**

PHIL WITTE. PHIL WITTE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Andy Capp**

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GET HER OFF ME VICAR  
—DO  
SOMETHING!

NOT ME,  
ANDY!  
I'M NOT  
ONE TO  
CAUSE  
TROUBLE

**Thursday, February 1, 1996**

	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	659.0	665.0	French franc	115.6 116.8
Pound Sterling	1105.6	1116.7	Japanese yen (for 100)	455.8 460.4
Deutschmark	392.6	396.5	Dutch guilder	348.3 351.8
Swiss franc	440.0	444.4	Swedish krona	107.5 108.6
			Italian lira (for 100)	52.9 53.4
			Belgian franc (for 10)	186.9 188.8

**Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:**

	Jan. 27-31	Jan. 20-24
Daily average	JD 2,415,935	JD 3,275,999
Total volume	JD 12,079,677	JD 16,379,997
Total shares	4,961,060	8,990,278
No. of contracts	5,307	7,299

### Sectoral trading:

<b>Industrial</b>	JD 5,375,475 (44.5%)	JD 7,428,756 (45.4%)
<b>Financial</b>	JD 4,627,631 (38.3%)	JD 3,935,156 (24.%)
<b>Service</b>	(14.6%)	(27.0%)
<b>Insurance</b>	(2.6%)	(3.6%)

### Share price index

No. of companies	73	72
Price movement (rise)	21	35
(decline)	42	28
(stable)	10	9

**LONDON (R)** — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6810/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1860/70	Canadian dollar
	1.6815/22	Deutschmarks
	1.8965/75	Dutch guilders
	1.4948/58	Swiss francs
	35.13/18	Belgian francs
	5.7100/50	French francs
	1249/1250	Italian lire
	145.18/28	Japanese yen
	6.1250/650	Swedish crowns
	6.4925/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.4965/5015	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	417.25/417.75	U.S. dollars

**SYDNEY** — The market drifted to a weaker close, pulled down by a sell-off among industrials and mounting concern about corporate financial problems. The All Ordinaries index fell 1.6 to 1,669.3.

**TOKYO** — Shares closed sharply higher with index-linked buying once again dominating trade. The Nikkei index rose 443.73 to 37,650.15.

**HONG KONG** — Blue chips recovered most of their losses on the day after active buying support emerged in afternoon trading. The Hang Seng index ended only 1.69 points lower at 2,736.55 after plunging more than 40 points in late morning.

**SINGAPORE** — The exchange posted a record turnover for the second day, with 228.2 million shares traded by the close. The Straits Times industrial index rose 20.30 to 1,549.13.

**BOMBAY** — Share prices fell sharply on late long liquidation. The Bombay stock exchange index fell 7.93 points to 684.48.

**FRANKFURT** — A tidal wave of foreign buying pushed German share prices to new all time highs. The DAX index gained 52.59 points to end at a record 1,910.67.

**ZURICH** — Prices, supported by soaring German share, closed higher after active trade. The SPI index gained 13.2 to 1,121.7.

**PARIS** — The market was buoyed by French and U.S. data and by gains on foreign equity markets. The CAC-40 index rose 29.17 to 1,924.70.

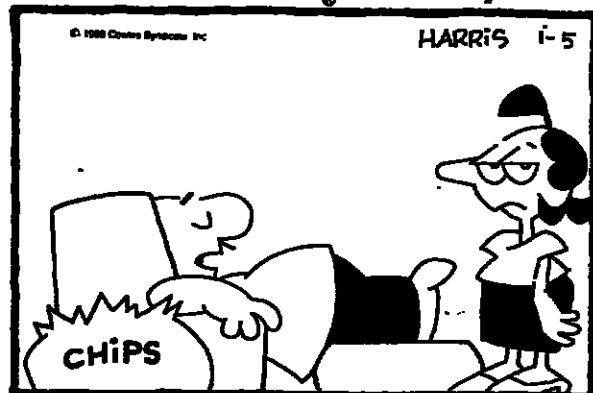
**LONDON** — Prices edged up towards the close as Wall Street managed to push higher, but the market remained depressed as it had been all week. At 1555 GMT the FTSE was 6.9 higher at 2,352.7.

**NEW YORK** — Future-related buying pushed blue chips sharply higher into an area of technical resistance. The Dow climbed 20 to 2,606.

## Bofors cuts work force

**STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)**—A.B. Bofors, Sweden's biggest weapons producer, announced Friday it is firing another 500 workers because of falling orders from the Swedish military. The decision, which takes effect July 1, follows a reduction last October by 1,300 workers. Bofors had counted on continued orders from India, but they were suspended amid allegations that Bofors paid bribes to secure a \$1.3 billion artillery sale in 1986. In all, the number of Bofors employees will be cut to about 3,000.

## THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



**"I'm resting so I'll have enough energy to take my nap after dinner."**

## THE HUNT FOR THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

**JUMBLE.** by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Don't worry — I'll drive

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

SMEECH

WHAT HORSEPOWER SHOULD BE MIXED WITH.

HIRSLE

[illegible]

Yesterday's Jumble: ELITE HEDGE LAWFUL THROAT  
Answer: That letter made it with—THE LETTER W

## Peanuts



**It'n' Jeff**



## dy Capp





## Graf records 50th consecutive win

TOKYO (R) — Steffi Graf completed her 50th consecutive singles victory on Friday when she overcame Larissa Savchenko of the Soviet Union 6-0, 6-3 to claim her place in the semifinals of the Pan Pacific women's tennis tournament.

The 20-year-old West German, enjoying the longest winning streak of her career, had equalled her previous best sequence of 46 wins, set in 1988, when she beat American Patty Fendick in the quarter-finals of last month's Australian Open.

She said: "I have been in a great streak. It is very difficult to keep winning matches, not losing matches, as I lost only twice last year."

Graf, the world number one, remains some distance away from establishing a new all-time record for consecutive victories in women's tennis. The record of 74 is held by Martina Navratilova.

Graf said: "I think it's an unbelievable record... It's very difficult to catch up without luck." Graf has lost to only four players — Argentine Gabriela Sabatini (three times), Navratilova (twice), Pam Shriver and Arantxa Sanchez — since January 1987.

Graf will meet third seed Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland in the semifinals on Saturday. Sanchez faces unseeded Japanese Akiko Kijimuta, who defeated compatriot Nana Miyagi 7-6 (7-2), 2-6, 6-3 on Friday, in the other semifinal.

"I think the competition against Manuela will be tough and it's going to be a longer match because she is a good baseline player," Graf said.

Maleeva, 22, whose agents have announced she will represent Switzerland instead of her native Bulgaria this year, beat Brenda Schultz of the Netherlands 6-2, 6-0.

## DAVIS CUP

## Malaysia wins the opening games

By Serene Hakala  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Malaysia beat Jordan in the opening matches of the Davis Cup tennis tournament Friday, adding pressure on the Jordanian team in the build-up to the qualifying matches scheduled for Saturday and Sunday.

The presence of Her Majesty Queen Noor and a surprise visit by His Majesty King Hussein added excitement to the matches and lifted the spirits of the Jordanian team. But it was too much work for national team which had to deal with their highly professional competitors from Asia.

Jordan's Ayman Abu Jaber played the first game against Malaysia's number one champion, Adam Malik, a professional. Malik stunned the audience with his bullet-like services and expertise even though he acknowledged his Jordanian opponent's capabilities. "Ayman is a good player but he seemed very nervous and very predictable," he said. The game ended with Malaysia winning, 6:1, 6:0, 6:1.

Hani Al Ali, Jordan's best hope in this tournament was to play next against Malaysia's number two champion V. Selvam. The game was action packed, with neck-to-neck scoring, keeping the audience on edge as the players took



Hani Al Ali

turns taking advantage points and keeping the outcome uncertain until the final game. The excitement heightened in the second set, when both competitors ended the set with six games. Tiebreak was then used according to the international laws of the Davis Cup tennis tournament. The result of the tiebreak was 7:2 for

Malaysia, ending the game with Malaysia winning for the second time, 6-3, 7-6 (7-2), 6-2. "He (Selvam) is an excellent player," Al Ali said. "He played unbelievable back hands." According to the audience and members of the Malaysian team, the Jordanian team exerted great effort during the games.

## Coe's career ends in anti-climax

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Sebastian Coe's international track and field career ended in anti-climax Friday when he was forced to pull out of the heats for the 1,500-metres at the Commonwealth Games.

But while there was disappointment for Coe there was unexpected joy for Kay Morley of Wales who completed a Welsh "double" in the high hurdles, winning in a games record time of 12.91 seconds.

Defending champion Sally Gummell of England, the new 400 metres hurdles champion, took the silver in 13.12 and her teammate Lesley-Ann Skeete took the bronze in 13.31. Australian Jane Flemming, who won the heptathlon title, was fourth in 13.37.

Olympic silver medalist Colin Jackson of Wales won the men's 100-metres hurdles title on Sunday.

Australia won its eighth track and field gold when Simon Arkell won the pole vault with a clearance of 5.35 metres, a games record. Ian Tuller of England took the silver at 5.25 metres and Simon Poelman of New Zealand, the silver medalist in the decathlon, was third with a clearance of 5.20 metres.

The women's high and long jump finals were also being decided as was the women's 10,000 metres. The men's discus final was also due to be decided later Friday.

Besides Coe's withdrawal there were no surprises in the 1,500-metres heats, with all the favorites including Peter Elliott of England winning through to Saturday's final. John Walker, New Zealand's veteran runner, also clinched a place in the "blue ribbon" metric mile.

Coe's last race was the 800-metres final Thursday when he finished sixth. He was hoping to end his career Saturday in the 1,500 metres final.

"I will come here and spectate tomorrow," Coe said. "I want to watch my training partner and close friend Wendy Sly compete. Now I'm a retired old spectator I hope they don't take my accreditation away."

The men's 4x100 metres relay heats ended in controversy when Canada, Jamaica, Nigeria and Scotland protested England's second changeover in the second heat.

They claimed the change between Tony Jarrett and John Regis was illegal.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
AND TAMARA HURCH  
© 1990 The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

## WINNING DEFENSE 46 YEARS AGO

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ 9  
♥ 10 8 5  
♦ A K Q 7  
♣ A K J 8

**EAST**  
♠ K Q 8 7 6 5 4 3 2  
♥ 7  
♦ 10 5  
♣ Q

**SOUTH**

♠ A 10  
♥ A K Q J  
♦ 9 8 2  
♣ 6 5 4 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 4 ♠ 4 NT Pass  
5 ♠ Pass 5 NT Pass  
7 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠  
How good were the bridge players of several generations ago? This hand is from Milton Work's *Academy of Bridge* of 1924. What surprises us is the note that it was played on a committee table in 1923!

The game was auction bridge, so the bidding shown is as it might go today. When North shows interest

in a grand slam by confirming possession of all aces and making for kings, South diagnoses correctly that his solid hearts make shooting for 13 tricks a worthwhile effort.

We venture to claim that most declarers would have little difficulty fulfilling the grand slam. Declarer wins the first trick and ruffs a spade high. On this trick, East must find a discard. If the defender shifts a diamond, the long card in dummy sets up. Similarly, a club pitch allows declarer to take four tricks in that suit.

The winning defense is for East to discard a trump! Now declarer cannot avoid losing a minor-suit trick. If South cashes all four trumps, dummy is squeezed before East. East simply discards whichever suit declarer lets go from dummy. If declarer discards a club from the table on the fourth heart, the long club in his hand is established, but there is no entry to the closed hand to cash the trick.

If they could defend that well in a committee game, we would have dreaded crossing swords with those players at rubber bridge. It might have proved to be an expensive pastime.

## HOROSCOPE

## FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 3, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation.

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A day when you are apt to have a sudden inspiration that could end up meaning a great deal to you and those around you. Don't lose sight of your larger ambitions.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Keep discussions about money out of period while having social pleasures with interesting friends. Many unfinished tasks can be rightly completed at your home.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You can now go forward by clearing up obligations that have been on hold. Your attachment and you can discriminate in whatever your mutual wishes happen to be.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Invite chatters into your home now; you have a good chance to get close companions and your mate to get along better.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Jamms with friends to see kin, neighbours and close companions will work out happily. Your family and you will have a good time outside the doors of home.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Encourage friends who will go out with you socially to cooperate with your wishes. In any money matters be sure you operate with anyone else who is involved.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Put off having associates into your home until a more convenient moment. Don't let some unexpected delays hold up jamms with attachment.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You now can go forward with your daily activities with considerably more confidence. You cer-

tainly need to avoid quick or impulsive decisions in business.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Many friends who have wishes different from your own should be catered to now. You can now come to a more agreeable practical understanding with mate.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Look for some cooperative friends who are in a position of power or authority. This is the time to put into long desired ambitious at your home.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Don't let a practical problem bring a sticky situation between you and a good friend. The time is not yet to make those changes to your dwelling.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Entertain persons in your home who at one time or another have rendered you favours. Being cooperative with mate will bring a flow of romantic happiness.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) You are tempted to feel your views are the only right ones in business but listen to experts. Now you can invite charming partners into your home for a happy time.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she has all kinds of depth of interests and purposes that are not at all understood on the surface so be sure you do not accept your child at face value. Study closely, to understand this unusual personality who will not be thwarted in gaining his or her aims.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

## Al Faisali crowned

Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Friday presented the Premier League Cup to Al Faisali team captain and the gold medals to members of the team after winning the championship. In the last game with Al Ramtha, the runner-up; Al Faisali received its first defeat of the season which was held at Amman International Stadium. Al Ramtha by its triumph in the last game came in the second place after Al Faisali. Al Faisali is scheduled to leave Amman for Baghdad on Saturday to represent Jordan in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Cup championship. Taking part in the championship alongside Al Faisali are Ismaili of Egypt, Ahli Sanaa of North Yemen and Zawra of Iraq.

## MANY VILLAS AND APARTMENTS FOR RENT &amp; SALE

Furnished or Unfurnished

In Shmeisani, Sweifiah, Abdoun and many other locations.

For more information please call Wael Real Estate Tel: 685342, 682097

## JAPANESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

The Ohara School of Ikebana (Japanese fresh flower arrangement) announces intensive courses for beginners and advanced level students starting Feb. 13, 1990 for 6 weeks at the Khalil Al Rahman Society.

The courses will be taught by Professor Masatoshi Tomita, a master of the Ohara School in Tokyo.

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## THE Daily Crossword by George Ughetto

ACROSS

- 1 Additional
- 2 Breakfast food
- 3 Upon
- 4 Jason's ship
- 5 Mr. author
- 6 Mrs. Charles
- 7 Prepare for battle
- 8 Without
- 9 Without
- 10 Clingings
- 11 Whirlpool
- 12 Good
- 13 Like beer
- 14 Rustics
- 15 Philippine sea
- 16 Band leader
- 17 Before
- 18 Horse race
- 19 One — time
- 20 Midwest
- 21 Painting and sculpture
- 22 Refuses to quit
- 23 Old Roman god
- 24 At the past
- 25 Amal
- 26 Settlement
- 27 Gucci
- 28 Some bridge
- 29 Score
- 30 Dog
- 31 Rose's love
- 32 Foul
- 33 Lullabrigida
- 34 Fabric worker
- 35 H.J. Munro
- 36 Wager factor

DOWN

- 1 To — his
- 2 Small group
- 3 Farming prefix
- 4 Jailed
- 5 A Ross
- 6 Stadium sounds
- 7 Summer cooler
- 8 Possession in American usage
- 9 Cat or goat
- 10 Captured
- 11 Fr. river
- 12 Freckle
- 13 Slender
- 14 Alt's dogs
- 15 Entertained
- 16 Stables
- 17 Group of rooms
- 18 Of an arm
- 19 Iron
- 20 Indian statesman
- 21 Jags
- 22 Stitches
- 23 Barter
- 24 Sharp
- 25 Singer Kazan
- 26 Place arrest
- 27 CA port city
- 28 Jack is a way
- 29 Lure
- 30 Can
- 31 Me LaBelle
- 32 Mild oath
- 33 " — " dish"
- 34 Nuptial
- 35 Brew coffee
- 36 Watercourse
- 37 Enthusiastic
- 38 Furnish
- 39 " — " verb
- 40 Watercourse

Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

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# Soviet troops likely to leave Europe by 1995 U.S. to cut number of troops in Europe to 225,000 — Cheney

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union is likely to pull all its troops from Europe by 1995, but the Western allies must remain wary of "the only nation on earth capable of destroying the United States," Defence Secretary Dick Cheney told Congress Thursday.

Cheney said President George Bush's new proposal that Moscow and Washington seek agreement on deeper troop cuts in Europe than previously contemplated would "preserve... a viable, useful" U.S. military presence on the continent.

Bush in his state of the union speech Wednesday proposed reducing U.S. and Soviet combat forces in Europe to no more than 225,000 for each side — a drop of 50,000 from the previous U.S. proposal at East-West troop reduction talks now under way in Vienna.

The state of the union address spoke of a U.S. troop ceiling of 195,000, but that number would apply to NATO's "central front," basically Germany. The 225,000 ceiling would be for all Europe, including U.S. forces in Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain and Britain.

Bush said that with "communism crumbling" in Eastern Europe, the time had come to swiftly conclude agreements limiting conventional, strategic and chemical weapons.

In testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Cheney said "caution is still in order" in considering relaxing

U.S. defences, even though Moscow is reducing its military spending and is unlikely to initiate an attack on NATO territory.

"The Soviet Union remains the only nation on Earth capable of destroying the United States," Cheney said, adding that even if all Soviet troops leave Eastern Europe, Moscow would retain its geographic advantage in the event of a European crisis.

He said it was important not to drop below a certain troop level in Europe.

Sen. John Warner, the ranking Republican on the committee, sought and received an assurance from Cheney that the administration would not consider going beyond Bush's latest troop-cut proposal in the foreseeable future.

"This is the worst possible time to contemplate changes in strategy," Warner said.

Cheney estimated that the 225,000 U.S. troop level in Europe could be achieved "within a year or two certainly" after an agreement is ratified. But he said the troops would be sent elsewhere and not removed from military service.

However, Sen. Alan Dixon

pressed Cheney as to why the Bush administration would wait for an arms control agreement before reducing U.S. troops in light of moves by U.S. allies to cut their forces and pressures in the Eastern Bloc for the Soviets to leave.

"They're going to get out of Eastern Europe whether they like it or not without any agreement with the United States," Dixon said. "They're going to kick them out. And we're waiting here to do things until we have the agreement."

"I'm not saying strip until we're naked. I'm saying do sensible things now here in our country even without agreements," Dixon said.

Cheney said the administration is not oblivious to the need to reduce U.S. forces overseas, and has plans to end U.S. operations at several foreign bases.

But to ensure the NATO alliance and a peaceful process, "we should not unilaterally bring them home until we've got an agreement," Cheney said.

At the White House, Chief of Staff John Sununu said Bush's new troop-cut proposal was not intended to prop up a politically weakened Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as he faces a critical meeting next week of the Communist Party Central Committee.

While acknowledging dramatic changes in the political landscape of Eastern Europe, Cheney said

the Soviets are continuing to modernise their strategic nuclear arsenal and will be more capable in the 1990s to adapt new technologies to weapons systems.

Cheney said the Defence Department would present to Congress within a few months a revamped five-year plan for troop levels, deployments, weapons requirements and other strategic issues in light of the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe.

Among the assumptions used in this planning, he said, is that "the Soviets will be out of Eastern Europe or virtually out of Eastern Europe five years hence, that the governments of Eastern Europe will be democratically elected, non-Communist regimes."

Remarks to the committee by Cheney and Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appeared aimed largely at heading off any political momentum toward an immediate, radical reduction in U.S. military capabilities.

"We must not shatter the armed forces," Powell said. "We must not make them a shadow of strength."

Powell said the Defence Department's latest assessment of the overall Soviet threat to U.S. security was based on acknowledgement of a "dramatic diminution" in the possibility of East-West conflict but also an unsettling uncertainty about the future.

## Bulgarian Communist Party congress elects new leader

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — A moderate reformer became the new head of the Bulgarian Communist Party Friday after a marathon closed session that ousted top old guard leaders from the new supreme party council.

Alexander Lilov, a party veteran, an shunted aside until the ouster of hard-liner Tudor Zhivkov as party leader in November, has said he recognises the need for an overhaul of the party before multi-party elections in May.

Outgoing party boss Petar Mladenov, who replaced Zhivkov, will remain as state president. In a bow to reform drives and his failing health, he had proposed that the head of the Communist Party and the head of the state be separated.

Among those not on the new

supreme council is Premier Georgi Atanasov, who resigned Thursday with his 22-member cabinet after coming under sharp criticism during the emergency party congress for failing to solve Bulgaria's growing economic problems.

Atanasov's resignation was necessary "to form a cabinet on a broad national basis," said the Bulgarian news agency (BTA).

But Atanasov's government will continue to serve until the parliament accepts its resignation, BTA said. No date was given for a parliament session to consider the resignations.

Trying to appease opposition demands for power-sharing, the communists have made a vague proposal for a government of "national concord" to rule until

the country's first postwar multi-party elections in May. But the opposition so far has been reluctant to accept the offer because the Communists haven't specified how much power they will share.

Compared with their East Bloc neighbours, Bulgarian Communists have given up relatively little power, bolstered by a century of roots in the nation's politics and a relatively weak, although growing, opposition.

The election of the new 131-member policy-making council, less than half the size of the Central Committee it replaces under new party rules, was announced after 19 hours of reportedly sharp debate.

The council is to meet monthly and set policy.

## U.S. seek to increase aid for El Salvador

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. State Department has announced a proposed \$55 million increase in economic assistance for El Salvador as Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani headed into high-level meetings here.

Before the formal announcement, an administration official had confirmed a published report that an aid cut was planned, but the official figures showed \$284 million proposed for El Salvador for fiscal 1991 compared with \$229 million for the current year. The official was unavailable afterward to explain the discrepancy.

Other Central American countries, however, were cut back as part of a general reordering of priorities the administration is undertaking in light of additional claims on the aid programme in Panama and Eastern Europe.

Military aid to El Salvador would undergo a slight increase in fiscal 1991, to \$91.4 million from the current level of \$84.6 million. The administration has been concerned that Congress may impose sharp cutbacks on El Salvador in response to continuing human rights abuses in that country.

Bush reiterated his strong support for Cristiani during a photo session at the White House.

In the face of congressional criticism over alleged military involvement in the slaying of six Jesuit priests, Bush praised Cristiani for arresting four officers and four soldiers in the case. "I know of his commitment to democracy," Bush said. "I have been very impressed with the courage he has shown in going after those who have broken the law in his country," he said.

Cristiani earlier went to Capitol Hill for a meeting with key House of Representatives Democrats including speaker Tom Foley, majority leader Richard Gephardt, and Congressman Joe Moakley, head of a House task force looking into El Salvador.

## Angolan army reportedly captures rebel stronghold

LISBON (R) — The Angolan army said Friday it had captured the south-eastern rebel stronghold of Mavinga in some of the fiercest fighting in the country's 15-year civil war, the Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) said.

LUSA quoted a military source as saying there were thousands of casualties from both sides when government troops overran the UNITA-held town Wednesday.

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) officials in Lisbon were unavailable for immediate comment.

UNITA officials in Lisbon contacted later reported heavy fighting overnight in the region but denied that the town had fallen. They said that as of early morning Friday, government troops were still 38 kilometres from Mavinga.

UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi broke off a European tour Wednesday to lead his men in battle and upon his return to Angola announced an all-out offensive against the Cuban-backed military.

LUSA said government troops supported by MiG-23 planes, heavy artillery and armoured tanks had broken rebel defences on the Lomba River in the final phase of an offensive launched around Christmas.

The military source told LUSA that the army now needed to consolidate its positions in captured ground.

Mavinga is a strategic base with an air strip and hospital. It stands on the route to UNITA headquarters at Jamba in the south-east corner of Angola and serves as a base from which to launch attacks into the interior.

## Romanian front, opposition to share power until polls

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Romania's revolutionary government agreed Thursday to share power with the opposition until Romania's first free postwar elections on May 20.

The National Salvation Front (NSF), which governs through an 11-member ruling council, will be replaced by a new panel that will include political parties "who are competitive, without regard for their political colour," said Cezar Ionescu, vice president of the outgoing governing council.

The front has been facing demands that it share power or resign.

A front proposal earlier Thursday for expansion of the ruling council and establishment of a "mini-parliament" with veto power over the government was dropped.

In the new Council of National Unity, each of the 29 parties and the front will have three seats for a total of 90 seats, said Radu Campeanu, leader of the National Liberal Party, one of the three

main opposition groups. "The 50 other seats will go to non-political members from 'all strata of the population from around the country, including people who participated in the revolution,'" he said.

The new council will convene on Feb. 9, he said. Campeanu said a new president will be elected by the new council.

Also Thursday, at the trial of four of Ceausescu's top aides, the prosecution demanded that the defendants be convicted of a "most severe crime" — "co-authorship to genocide." The four — former Communist Party Secretary Emil Bobu, third in the Ceausescu hierarchy after the dictator and his wife; former Interior Minister Tudor Postelnicu and former politburo members Manea Manescu and Ion Dincea — already have pleaded guilty to a charge of "complicity to genocide" and admitted backing Ceausescu's orders to shoot demonstrators during last month's revolution.

## C8LUMN

### Crime Increases in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (R) — A sharp rise in killings and suicide is worrying authorities in the Sultanate of Brunei, police said Friday. The number of cases of murder rose to five last year compared to only one in 1988 and of suicide to six from four, Haji Abdul Rahman Hamid, head of the Police Crime Division, told reporters. The 230,000 people of Brunei, located on the northern coast of Borneo Island, enjoy one of the world's highest per capita incomes, pay no taxes and have free education and medical care. Haji Abdul Rahman said 11 people were arrested in connection with eight cases of rape reported last year, down from 15 cases in 1988, but no one has been convicted so far because it was difficult to determine if the reports were genuine. He said in some cases women "cry rape" because they had engaged in premarital sex, which is illegal in Muslim Brunei, and feared the anger of their parents. He said more young Bruneians, particularly school leavers and jobless youths, were falling into bad company and turning to anti-social behaviour.

### Report of royal killings found in bank vault

LONDON (AP) — The coded telegram from Bolshevik revolutionaries reportedly telling of the execution of Russian Czar Nicholas II and his family in 1918 will be sold at auction, Sotheby's has said. The telegram was hidden in a bank vault for nearly 70 years among a mass of papers left by the original investigator of the Czar's death, according to auction house officials. The papers will be auctioned in London on April 5, Sotheby's said. The auction house would not disclose the owner's name or say exactly where the papers were concealed. "The owner knew that her uncle called them his 'dynastic papers' but until bringing them to us we had no idea of what they were," said John Stuart, Sotheby's consultant on Russian art and history. An auction estimate of \$300,000 to \$500,000 (\$500,000 to \$840,000) has been put on the papers. "There is interest in them everywhere. It isn't clear whether the Soviet government will buy them," Stuart said. Stuart said the owner is a descendant of Prince Nikolai Orlov who went into exile in France after the Russian Revolution. He said Orlov inherited the papers in 1924 on the death of his fellow-exile Nikolai Sokolov.

### 2,000 goats shot to save island

LOS ANGELES (R) — Two thousand hungry goats have been shot to preserve the delicate ecology of an island off southern California, conservation officials have said. Another 500 goats were spared on Santa Catalina Island, a number of officials considered to be "manageable," said Penelope O'Malley, a spokeswoman for the island's conservancy. She said the killings were an "unfortunate necessity." The goat herd was eating up grasses and shrubs, depriving native animals, such as the island fox, of the food necessary for their survival. The effort to trim the herd down to size began on Jan. 15 when four professional sharpshooters hired by the conservancy began shooting the animals. The herd was established in the 1800's by Spanish missionaries.

## Global weather (major world cities)

	MM	T	C	W	Weather
AMSTERDAM	05	41	08	48	Clear
ATHENS	10	50	14	57	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	12	54	20	68	Cloudy
BANGKOK	24	76	32	90	Clear
BLANCO APRES	20	68	32	90	Clear
CAROL	02	36	17	63	Clear
CHICAGO	01	34	10	50	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	01	34	10	50	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	01	34	11	52	Cloudy
GENOVA	02	36	10	50	Clear
HONG KONG	11	59	25	78	Clear
ISTANBUL	05	41	10	50	Cloudy
JAKARTA	08	48	09	48	Clear
LOS ANGELES	11	53	17	63	Clear
MADRID	01	34	11	52	Cloudy
MEXICO	20	68	34	93	Cloudy
MONTREAL	07	18	00	32	Cloudy
MOSCOW	01	20	01	30	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	28	82	28	82	Clear
NEW YORK	10	50	11	52	Clear
PARIS	07	45	12	54	Clear
ROME	09	37	05	41	Clear
SIDNEY	02	36	10	50	Clear
TOKYO	02	36	10	50	Clear
VIENNA	03	37	08	48	Clear

M: indicates missing information.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Cosmonaut rides space motorcycle

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet cosmonaut took a spin in space on a special motorcycle designed for rescuing spacemen, and officials said the vehicle's maiden journey outside the orbiting station Mir was a success. Flight Engineer Alexander Serebrov rode the cycle as far as 33 metres from the giant station, while mission commander Alexander S. Viktorenko stayed at Mir's exit hatch and monitored the operations. Soviet TV interrupted its regular programmes several times during the day for special coverage of the five-hour spacewalk. Live pictures showed Serebrov, 45, attached to a tether anchored on Mir as he prepared to ride the cycle. A taped report showed the cosmonaut, with his left side in the sun and right in shadow, slowly riding away from Mir, his image growing smaller. A correspondent emphasised the drama of floating in space while connected to Mir only by a rope. He told viewers in the nighttime newscast Vremya it was "risky and dangerous work." But TASS said the results of the 33-metre test ride and three five-metre trips were good. "Its easy operation and good manoeuvrability were confirmed," the news agency said. Further tests are planned Monday.

### 113 dead in China river collision

PEKING (R) — As many as 113 people were killed when a passenger ferry and an oil tanker collided on China's Yangtze River last week, according to an official report reaching Peking Friday. The Thursday edition of the Shanghai Liberation Daily said the Donggua ferry with 151 people on board collided with the Dagong tanker near Anqing in China's eastern province of Anhui on Jan. 24. Rescue workers recovered the wreck of the ferry last Monday and found 56 bodies. Altogether 70 people were confirmed dead and 43 still missing, the daily said. Thirty-eight survived the disaster. Many of the passengers were travelling home for the lunar new year festival. The daily said an investigation had begun. It did not indicate what caused the accident. Ferry accidents are common on the crowded Yangtze, China's longest river.

### VOA eliminates 6 language broadcasts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Voice of America (VOA) has informed employees that budget cuts have forced the elimination of six of its 43 language broadcasts, silencing the U.S. government's radio station on three continents. "We are doing to ourselves what 30 years of Soviet jamming couldn't do," VOA Director Richard W. Carlson told hundreds of broadcasters, editors and engineers. "This is the toughest and saddest day of my professional life." Going off the air by April 1 will be the Turkish, Greek, Slovenian, Lao, Uzbek and Swahili services. The 57 employees of those services will lose their jobs. Elimination of the six services will save VOA \$2.9 million, officials said. VOA, which has been providing news and entertainment to millions of listeners since 1942, has been grappling with budget cuts for several years. Since 1987 it has laid off more than 200 people, shut down five bureaus in the United States and abroad, and eliminated hundreds of radio hours in various languages. "If we don't get budget relief, more cuts could be possible," said Carlson. Carlson said VOA and its parent, the U.S. Information Agency, had decided that "amputation" of several services was preferable to "dissemination" of broadcast departments across the board. The selection of the services to be eliminated was made in accordance with a list of priorities that takes into account the geopolitical importance of the targeted countries and the availability of other foreign media there.

### Thatcher rules out smear campaign

LONDON (AP) — Newly discovered documents about an operation to discredit the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in the 1970s contain no evidence of a smear campaign against British politicians, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Thursday. But lawmakers who claim they were targets of such an operation pressed for a full inquiry, warning the allegations would not disappear otherwise. "The time has come for a full, open and honest uncovering of these things, so that people in Northern Ireland can know that this has come to an end, the dirty tricks that were carried on," said the Rev. Ian Paisley, the province's militant Protestant leader. Paisley, described as a target of smears, had been leading opposition to government policy during the 1970s. For years, Mrs. Thatcher has denied allegations by former army press officer Colin Wallace of a dirty tricks campaign against the Irish Republican Army and some politicians. On Wednesday, she acknowledged in a letter to a Conservative Party lawmaker that her statements had been based on false information from civil servants. British ministers are forbidden to examine papers of former administrations and must rely on facts given to them by civil servants. Her letter was released one day after her government confirmed the existence of a covert operation code-named "clockwork orange" to feed lies to journalists reporting from Northern Ireland, where the IRA is fighting to end British rule.

## Baker backs Gorbachev plan for 35 nation summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State James Baker gave qualified approval Thursday to a proposal by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for a 35-nation summit meeting next year to sign a treaty to reduce troops and tanks in Europe.

Baker told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that such a meeting could also provide a framework to deal with the question of German reunification.

But he said the Soviets first must agree to the principle that free elections are a human right.

And, Baker said, holding the 35-nation summit meeting would depend on completing the treaty to reduce NATO and Warsaw Pact troops and non-nuclear weapons in Europe.

Negotiations in Vienna are progressing, although Baker said there is disagreement on how to deal with combat aircraft and helicopters.

The 35-nation conference would bring together the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union, the Vatican and all the countries of Europe except Albania. The same 35 signed the Helsinki agreement of 1975, which promoted human rights and, in effect, recognised the post-World War II borders of Europe.

Democratic Sen. Joseph Biden

Jr. had urged the administration of President George Bush to accept Gorbachev's proposal.

Baker will hold talks next Thursday and Friday in Moscow with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and possibly Gorbachev. Baker's endorsement of the summit proposal, although qualified, represented another attempt by the Bush administration to back the Soviet leader.

Baker said the United States is prepared to normalise relations with Nicaragua if this month's elections are certified free and fair and if the Sandinista government halts its support for leftist guerrillas in neighbouring El Salvador.

"If we determine that it is free and fair... and we determine that they have indeed stopped their support of subversion in neighbouring countries or in other places in Latin America, then we'd be prepared to normalise our relations with that government," Baker told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Baker said, however, that it was important that the Sandinista government relent and admit members of President Bush's congressional observer team to watch election preparations and the Feb. 25 balloting.

## Bonn awaits German unity on its own terms

BONN (R) — West Germany, confident it will soon forge a single German state on its own terms, has written off East Berlin's Communists as players in the high-stakes poker game over reunification.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected Prime Minister Hans Modrow's offer of a united but neutral Germany Thursday, saying he would pursue his vision of a single fatherland with the new government that emerges from free elections next month.

Kohl spent Thursday afternoon in West Berlin discussing strategy for the March 18 polls with several conservative East German politicians his Christian Democratic (CDU) Party wants to support against the Communists.

Modrow's plan, a stunning admission of Communist political bankruptcy after 40 years of defending a separate German state, was "too little and too late" for Bonn to take seriously, a Western diplomat said.

"It was a last gasp, both politically and personally," said the envoy, who saw the move as desperate bid to fight against a rapid collapse of state authority and the continued exodus of more than 2,000 East Germans a day to the West.

In a frosty reaction to the most breath-taking concession made by an East German leader, Kohl declared: "We will come to an agreement on the steps along the way to German unity with a government that emerges from free elections in East Germany."

The West German government is prepared to start these talks immediately after March 18," he said in a statement.

Bonn's brush-off reflected its growing conviction that East Germany's crisis is so deep that its leaders have no choice but to agree to West German terms.

"The West Germans are calling the tune," another diplomat said. "They can have unity when and how they like it."

A Bonn official demonstrated the Kohl government's confidence by playing down the neutrality call even though it was clearly backed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who announced Moscow's about-turn on German unity during Modrow's visit Tuesday.

"Neither neutrality nor a step-by-step plan are elements that we could accept," said the official, who asked not to be named. "We had expected for some time that Moscow would want a price for unity, and neutrality would be that price."

"But that is not acceptable and the Soviet Union must know it. The last word has not yet been spoken."

Until now, Kohl has been careful to publicly support Modrow to help avoid chaos in East Germany. He used this argument to fend off critics who wanted him to cancel Modrow's first visit to Bonn on Feb. 14-15.

The chancellor, who will now only discuss emergency aid for East Germany with Modrow, will also meet his counterpart at the world economic forum in Davos, Switzerland Saturday.

In recent weeks, Bonn has been quick to pile on the pressure when Modrow tried to revive the hated security police and pass a restrictive election law against an outcry of protest from the opposition. The prime minister backed down on both counts.

The Western CDU has also started campaigning against the East German Social Democrats (SPD), the front-runner among the opposition and sister party to the West German SPD challenging Kohl in a general election in December.

"The West Germans are treating the East German elections as if they were just another state election here," another Western diplomat commented. "It's almost as if the only issue now is the effect that the election will have on the election here."

As if to illustrate the groundswell hurrying the Germans towards reunification, West German television reported East German Evelyn Grossmann's gold medal at the European skating championships in Leningrad Thursday as if it were a victory for a local favourite.

Interviewing her and third-placed West German Marina Kielmann, it screened only their home towns — Karl-Marx-Stadt and Dortmund — under their names.

Meanwhile Berliners could hardly believe what they heard — a Communist prime minister calling for their city divided for decades to be turned once against into the capital of a united Germany.

"It can't be true," gasped a middle-aged woman near the East German parliament building, her Berlin accent thick and rich. "It would be so wonderful to get the old city traditions back, make it like it once was."

"Fantastic. People here have dreamed of this for so long," said Juergen Behrendt, 19, as he stood at the entrance to a fast food restaurant in West Berlin.

"There'll be a few parties going on now."

But the joy was tempered by doubts about the four-step unity plan unveiled by Modrow Thursday.

A significant minority of people in both halves of the city said they were worried about the possible re-emergence of a German superpower and the changes it would bring to East Germany's 16 million people.

Berlin, the heart of the 18th century Prussian Empire and capital of Bismarck's newly-named German nation in the late 19th century, was divided after Hitler's Third Reich collapsed in 1945. Much of its superb architecture turned into rubble after six years of war.

It was since been administered by the World War II allies the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France.

For 28 years until last November, the concrete wall masterminded by disgraced East German Communist chief Erich Honecker divided the city and its people. On one side stood a glittering showcase of capitalist excess, on the other a shabby and polluted monument to Stalinism.

Now, with Honecker's hardline as swept away and the wall breached throughout the city, people mix freely on both sides.

"It suits me just fine," said Karl Grote, 55, an East Berlin glassworker. "It doesn't bother me that the West Germans would take us over. It would mean the city would be back like it was, and anything would be better than this."

"Look at that bloody parliament building," said Heinz-Dietrich Wittstock, a West Berliner in

his 70s. "It's so ugly and they knocked down a castle to build it. Once it's one city again, we can start to restore it properly."

He dismissed as alarmist unease in countries like Britain and France over the possibility of a mighty German state rising once again to stamp all over Europe.

"I know what I'm talking about. I was in the Hitler youth and got taken prisoner in Russia, and I tell you it will not happen again," he said. "People outside don't understand. We are democrats now and we'll stay that way."

But other Berliners were less happy about the idea of speedy reunification.

"I don't want it to happen until we in the East can contribute something," said Martina Gese, 19. "It's a question of human pride, we don't just want to be swallowed up by the West Germans. They're so arrogant."

But she saw